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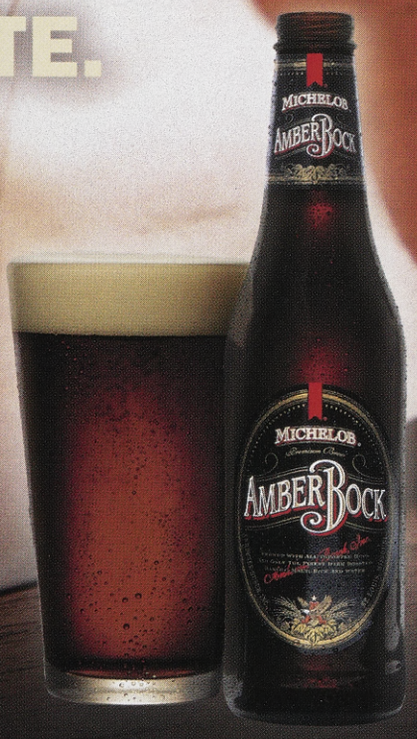

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october 2002 vol. 11 issue no. 126

CRYSTAL HUIE

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Cover Photo by Crystal Huie

Courtesy of the Manilatown Heritage Foundation

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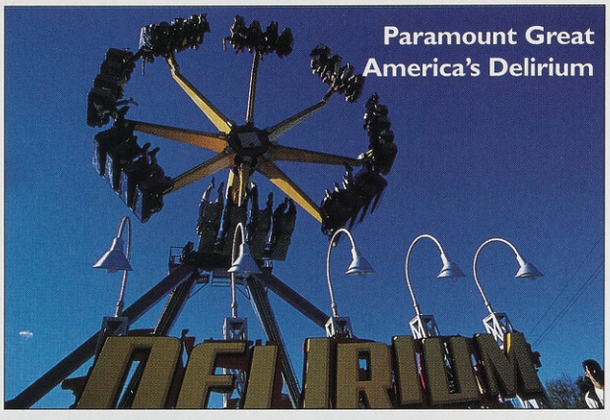

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FANHS Board of Trustees instituted Filipino American History Month, to be celebrated each year during October. We thank the Cordovas and the entire FANHS family for collecting and archiving the stories of our community, conducting educational activities, producing historical exhibits and shows, and for reminding us of our legacy. We followed their example by devoting our October issue every year to Filipino American history.

This month's cover story, "Reclaiming the I-Hotel," (page 37) celebrates the 25th year since the hotel's Filipino and other Asian tenants were forcibly evicted from their "home." During all these years Emil de Guzman, Bill Sorro, Al Robles, Carmen Choy, Dex Abarca and other activists led the resistance to any scheme to build anything but affordable housing on the former site of the International Hotel. The dream is far from finished. Four million dollars must be raised to establish the Manilatown Center, the new edifice's historical and cultural showcase. It will happen, just as the I-Hotel will soon rise again.

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October is also Domestic Violence Month, an issue that is normally discussed in our Women's issue in March. Cherie Querol Moreno gives us a riveting overview on domestic violence in the Asian community and zeroes in on a few recent cases where the law enforcers were unable to protect the victims due to cracks in the system ("Escalating Crisis" page 58). In a startling story by Monica Sagullo, we hear how women can be the abusers and why these cases are not reported by the male victims ("Can Abuse Cut Both Ways?" page 61). It is hard for us to understand, especially in our culture, that "as many men can get abused as the women." These men need to speak out and seek support. Just like abused women, there is nothing to be ashamed of and there is nothing to feel guilty about.

There is so much happening in our community. Sometimes when I want to pass on stories to my children, I don't know where to start. Maybe it's because we don't have happy endings yet for some of our issues. Like in the de Guzman family ("Reclaiming the I-Hotel"), activism must begin at home. If our spouses and children see our commitment and dedication, why would they not want to follow and emulate us? We need to keep *our* stories alive so that they can continue to live on in our children's consciousness. After all, our children will be our next storytellers and activists.—MLY

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History, Health and Homes Without Violence

Twenty years ago, a group of academics, community researchers, writers, educators and students went to the home of Fred and Dorothy Cordova in Seattle, Washington to start the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS). Manong Fred Cordova had just published his book, *Filipinos: Forgotten Asian Americans*, and boosters used book parties around the country to talk about the historical society. Fueled by volunteers' efforts and the inspiration of the Cordovas, FANHS has grown to 21 chapters across the country and holds biennial conferences. In 1991, the FANHS Board of Trustees instituted Filipino American History Month, to be celebrated each year during October. We thank the Cordovas and the entire FANHS family for collecting and archiving the stories of our community, conducting educational activities, producing historical exhibits and shows, and for reminding us of our legacy. We followed their example by devoting our October issue every year to Filipino American history.

This month's cover story, "Reclaiming the I-Hotel," (page 37) celebrates the 25th year since the hotel's Filipino and other Asian tenants were forcibly evicted from their "home." During all these years Emil de Guzman, Bill Sorro, Al Robles, Carmen Choy, Dex Abarca and other activists led the resistance to any scheme to build anything but affordable housing on the former site of the International Hotel. The dream is far from finished. Four million dollars must be raised to establish the Manilatown Center, the new edifice's historical and cultural showcase. It will happen, just as the I-Hotel will soon rise again.

There are two other important issues highlighted in the month of October: Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence. For the fourth year, *Filipinas* magazine and the American Cancer Society, together with concerned advertisers, bring you special messages relating to breast cancer, an illness with alarming rates in the Filipino American community. We're happy to inform our readers that we will have more regular updates on health issues affecting our community in the coming year with the assistance of organizations like the American Cancer Society and various health institutions.

October is also Domestic Violence Month, an issue that is normally discussed in our Women's issue in March. Cherie Querol Moreno gives us a riveting overview on domestic violence in the Asian community and zeroes in on a few recent cases where the law enforcers were unable to protect the victims due to cracks in the system ("Escalating Crisis" page 58). In a startling story by Monica Sagullo, we hear how women can be the abusers and why these cases are not reported by the male victims ("Can Abuse Cut Both Ways?" page 61). It is hard for us to understand, especially in our culture, that "as many men can get abused as the women." These men need to speak out and seek support. Just like abused women, there is nothing to be ashamed of and there is nothing to feel guilty about.

There is so much happening in our community. Sometimes when I want to pass on stories to my children, I don't know where to start. Maybe it's because we don't have happy endings yet for some of our issues. Like in the de Guzman family ("Reclaiming the I-Hotel"), activism must begin at home. If our spouses and children see our commitment and dedication, why would they not want to follow and emulate us? We need to keep *our* stories alive so that they can continue to live on in our children's consciousness. After all, our children will be our next storytellers and activists.—MLY

LETTERS

No Comparison

I wish to answer the question, "Why can't people be more like birds?" from Barbara C. Gonzalez's "People and Birds" (August 2002). The answer is "They can't." The behaviors birds exhibit are based on survival instinct; right or wrong is irrelevant. Human beings have one thing that differentiates them from all other living beings—freedom of choice. Regret about getting the wrong parents/children is a way to deny any responsibility for improved communication. The author of this piece is trying to make sense out of chaos in the human realm. At times of chaos you don't try to sort it out. You accept it and move on. We're not birds.

A. Dean Daylo
Kirkland, Washington

Three-Star General

Your August 2002 issue article on Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano was really inspiring. It is a source of pride for Filipino Americans that one of their *kababayans* (compatriots) has made it to the top ranks of the U.S. military. If Lt. Gen. Soriano continues to excel, there is no doubt he will attain the rank of a four-star general. That brings out some things that need to be clarified in the article. The article says that "As a three-star general, Soriano has attained the same rank as the legendary George S. Patton." Actually, Gen. Patton had the rank of four-star general (although he was a Lt. Gen. Before he became a General). The article also says "...being the first Filipino American three-star general and highest-ranking Asian American officer...," which is not quite accurate. The highest-ranking Asian American officer is General Erik K. Shinseki, the Army Chief of Staff, a four-star general. Gen. Shinseki is Japanese American. It is correct to say though Lt. Gen. Soriano is the highest-ranking Filipino American in the U.S. military today. But these typos do not detract from the inspiration and pride, which the article generates for Lt. Gen. Soriano's continuing success.

Edward Brotonel
Springfield, Virginia

You are correct. Our apologies.—Ed.

Nurses' Plight

I read with sincere interest the article "Tired Nurses Fired" (August 2002). I am a registered nurse (RN) for 40 years and am very aware of the issue of overworked, tired RN's. The patient suffers unnecessarily. It leaves the RN's no alternative but to quit or end up being fired. Part of the fatigue equation is most RN's suffer from an unbalanced diet and malnutrition. When I discovered the connection, I was able to correct this and build my stamina. At 60 years old, I no longer have to look at retirement due to fatigue, and everyone benefits. The company that addresses proper and balanced diet gives free seminars around the world every week. Please inform our health care professionals that there is a solution.

Karen Angle, RN
Campbell, California

Your magazine brings me back home. I am a page closer to my own Filipino heritage. I enjoy all the articles you publish, but what struck me the most was "Tired Nurses Fired." I have a sister who is currently taking a nursing course in the Philippines. Due to poor financial gains and her dreams of giving her children a good future, she decided to pursue a nursing degree at the age of 34. Some people discouraged her from it, but she still pursued it. She is now nearing her capping in November this year. My family and I are very proud of her perseverance and motivation.

Jolie Yling
Henderson, Nevada

The Great Mystery

Thank you for sharing the article "To A Dying Friend" (August 2002) by Gemma Nemenzo. No doubt, I and so many readers will read it again.

More than existential pondering on the great mystery we call death, is the epiphany of life and the beauty of the friendship Ms. Nemenzo shared with J. How profoundly articulated was her grief, anger and loss.

Congratulations Ms. Nemenzo. You are truly a gifted writer.

Fr. Rey Culaba
Rome, Italy

Bone to Pick

I just received my first issue of *Filipinas*, and am glad to have all this new information about Filipino American culture at my disposal. However, I do have a bone to pick already: 1) you profiled a Filipino restaurant ("The Importance of Being Ernie," August 2002), described its tasty food, but provided no sample recipe; 2) you published a feature on the wonderful-sounding fabric *piña* ("The Romance of Piña"), its history and modern uses, but you failed to describe its manufacture (including the plant it comes from) or its texture and qualities. Furthermore, how much does it cost? If I don't live in the Philippines, where can I buy it?

Tania Sanchez
Brooklyn, New York

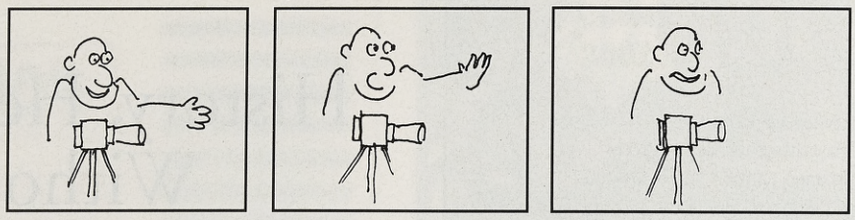
For more information about buying piña dresses featured, write to Malu Veloso at 330-B Shangri-la Plaza, Mandalulyong City, Philippines.

We do publish many recipes as you will see in future issues—Ed.

Erratum:

The title of last month's article on the South of Market Teen Center should have read "A Refuge in the South of Market," which is the center's actual location.

Matt Jardiniano



Matt Jardiniano is a guest cartoonist

Filipinas is inviting cartoonists to send in their editorial cartoons with the theme of "Filipino American Experiences."

Mail your entries to Filipinas Magazine Editorial Cartoons, 1486 Huntington Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080, or e-mail to FILMAGAZIN@aol.com and write "editorial cartoon entry" on the subject line. E-mailed entries should be 300 dpi, at least 4" x 5" in size, as jpeg or tiff file.

Chosen entries will be published in the magazine.

Entries will not be returned.

Filipinas *welcomes all letters. Mail to The Editor, Filipinas, 1486 Huntington Ave., Suite 300, South San Francisco, CA 94080; Fax 650.872.8651. E-mail us at FILMAGAZIN@aol.com or www.filipinasmag.com. Be sure to include your city and state. The shorter the letter, the better the chance of being published. Please include writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for length.*

By Terry Bennett

The Great Tourist Visa Dilemma

The author, an American married to a Filipina, asserts that the process by which the United States hands out tourist visas is neither designed nor administered nearly as well as it should be.

In early 2000, my wife and I decided to take two trips—to Iloilo to see her family, and then to Disney World. We also thought it would be nice to bring one of our nieces from the Philippines to Disney World, since school would be out in March. We did the paperwork, got her an interview, sent her all over town to get a passport and gather documentation, got her a seat on our plane back, arranged to stay two days in Manila, got her out of school, flew her in from Iloilo, met her plane, and took her to the U.S. Embassy, where we waited for several hours. Then, in five minutes, it was over. No visa, no trip, big loss on her ticket, big waste of time, big insult, big humiliation, a totally disgusting experience for both of us. As her eight-year-old sister so aptly put it, "no Bugs Bunny—just *bugsat*."

The Philippines supplies the United States with more new citizens each year than any other country, and there are good reasons on both sides for this to continue. For Filipinos, the U.S. represents obvious opportunity not found at home, which is why the waiting list to immigrate is decades long. For the U.S., our new citizens start Day 1 impeccably educated, English-speaking, Christian, accustomed to democracy, probably already part of a family network here, and overwhelmingly pro-U.S. England can't offer us such perfectly suited recruits.

There is, however, one significant bone of contention between our two countries. For the last several decades, the U.S. has noticed that large numbers of Filipinos have violated the terms of their tourist visas, in three ways: (a) by submitting fraudulent applications, (b) by working during their stay, and (c) by staying beyond the expiration of their visas. In response, the U.S. government has adopted some very strict policies for issuing tourist visas to Filipinos.

As an American, my wants and priorities probably differ from those of most readers of this magazine, but I assert that current U.S. policy in this area has significant failings:

It is ineffective. The U.S. has decided, correctly, that our national interests are better served by keeping bad people out than by letting good people in. That's an acceptable goal, but in practice it fails miserably. The few people such as my niece who honestly just want to see the country (and/or their relatives) are kept out.

It is arbitrary. One question I have always asked Filipinos is, "How did you get in?" Most of them report an ordeal, and consider it plain luck that they passed the interview, because they know plenty of others in similar circumstances who did not.

In my niece's case, the interviewer was gracious enough to reveal that from his throne of omnipotence he was able to clairvoyantly see the truth, and that he was denying the visa because he could feel a disturbance in the force, and thus knew I was part of a treasonous plot against my own government to further this fraudulent application. Meanwhile, a few time zones away, some equally unprofessional American doofus stared into the stone cold evil eyes of hijacker Mohammed Atta, and said, "Yep, he looks like a tourist to me." But thank heavens, at least the country has been saved from a girl who wanted to meet Mickey Mouse.

Rather than curse the darkness, I have offered the following suggestions for improvements to the U.S. government:

1) We should allow Filipinos who are facing the famous 214(b) rejection—the U.S. law that says you have to show that you have a good reason to go home after your visit—to post a bond. Right now, if the Ouija Board behind the window says you're an intending immigrant, there's nothing you can do. The entire integrity of the United States government in 2002 A.D. comes down to witchcraft. The bond would replace a subjective process with an objective process. We Americans consider it extremely important to be fair; the interview process is grossly unfair and needs to go. Second, the bond provides an automatic tracking mechanism. Right now, once you're in, you're in, and the U.S. government has no idea. Third, for an applicant who has no implicit reason to return home, the bond provides an explicit reason.

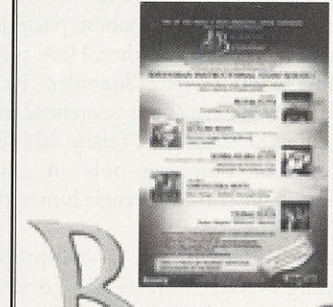
2) When an American goes to the Philippines, the standard allowable stay is 21 days. When a foreigner arrives on U.S. shores, we almost automatically hand out a six-month stay. If I were an interviewer (which of course isn't possible, since my I.Q. doesn't start with '8' and my parents taught me to chew with my mouth closed), it would strike me as suspicious if an applicant were to ask for six months.

3) U.S. law has provision for sponsored immigrants: if you become an American citizen, you can petition your relatives from back home. We should also have sponsored non-immigrants. I am a U.S. citizen in good standing. My signature should be good enough for my government to be assured that I'll put her on the plane home in 30 days. I'd sure do a better job than the INS currently does.

4) There's been talk of a foreign worker program between the U.S. and Mexico. The Philippines should jump on this bandwagon immediately. If there were a plausible legal way to satisfy the market forces which drive illegal Filipino behavior in the U.S., the whole problem would go away.

And I could take my niece to Disney World. ■

If you have any ideas for improvements in the system, send them to Terry at RPIdeas@att.net.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Maltreated by Malaysia?

Some 300,000 undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia are scheduled for deportation, according to Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat. Lobregat has asked the Department of Social Welfare and Development to help take care of the returning Filipinos.

Malaysia forcibly deported 122 Filipinos in August, allegedly under inhumane conditions. They were reportedly crammed into a small fishing boat meant only for 30 people. The Philippine Navy rescued the deportees, who were found in Philippine waters near Malaysia.

The mass deportation came a day after Malaysia's amnesty for undocumented immigrants expired on July 31. One deportee claimed that Malaysian officials used dogs to hunt down Filipinos. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said that of some two million foreign workers in Malaysia, about ten percent, many of them Filipinos and Indonesians, are undocumented.

Save Them, Please

The families of 22 Filipinos who have been sentenced to death by beheading in Saudi Arabia have asked President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to help spare their relatives' lives.

"I am appealing to the President, if you could do something at the soonest possible time, please attend to my brother. Have pity on his children," cried Grace Simbulan. Her brother Idan Tejano has been sentenced to death for killing his employer. Tejano said he killed his woman employer only in self-defense, because she tried to strangle him with an electric cord.

Migrante International, a nonprofit group assisting overseas workers said government was not doing enough to help the 22 Filipinos in death row. "Most of these Filipinos in jail are unjustly jailed, meaning they were framed up, or there was not enough legal assistance extended to them," Migrante spokesperson Maita Santiago said.

Australians Beware

Australians have been advised to take extra precautions if they visit the Philippines. "Australians in the Philippines should not travel to parts of Mindanao in the southern Philippines, where insurgent groups are active," the Australian foreign department's website said.

"Australians should be alert to the dangers of kidnapping throughout the Philippines including in the capital Manila," the website said. "Visitors should not accept offers of food, drink or transportation from strangers. There are also increasing reports of taxi drivers using threats to extort money from passengers." Australians were urged to register with their embassy upon arrival in Manila.

Screener vs. Senate President at SFO

A San Francisco International Airport screener asked a high-ranking Philippine dignitary to take his shoes off, he didn't realize that he would trigger a possible diplomatic protest. Filipino American screener Anthony Calmerin unwittingly offended to Senate President Franklin Drilon, who was asked to remove his shoes as part of new screening procedures post 9/11.

Drilon reportedly responded by banging his shoes on the inspection table, asking "Don't you know who I am?" When Calmerin admitted he did not, Drilon told the screener that he was the president of the Philippine Senate.

This, however, failed to intimidate Calmerin, which reportedly angered Drilon even more. Drilon's colleagues wanted to come to his defense by filing a protest. But overseas Filipinos supported Calmerin by e-mailing a popular Manila broadsheet.

Tipping Appreciated

A taxicab driver was awarded cash and a plaque of appreciation by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang in August for giving a tip about the robbery of a Jollibee hamburger outlet in Manila.

The taxi driver, whose identity was kept secret for his own safety, called up police after he witnessed ten heavily armed men rob Jollibee cashiers and customers. The robbers took off with about P250,000 ($5,000) worth of cash and belongings.

The cab driver called the police and later helped identify three of the suspects from mug shots.

More Soldiers or More Servants?

The government has asked Congress to release funds to recruit 7,000 new soldiers and 5,000 new policemen. About P800 million ($16 million) is needed to hire 7,000 soldiers, and that does not include the cost of training and equipping the recruits, Palawan Representative Abraham Mitra said.

Mitra wondered if there really is a need to recruit additional soldiers and policemen, noting that many recruits end up just serving as cooks, household help and aides or bodyguards of politicians and high-ranking bureaucrats. "They should be recalled and assigned to the field," Mitra said. ■

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"Filipinos are not boat people who depend on government dole-outs. They have jobs so they are productive members of society."

–Sen. Ralph Recto, on Filipinos who were packed in boats and forcibly deported from Malaysia.

"The Malaysian government is going Nazi-style with its ruthless assault on our countrymen."

–Migrante International Secretary General Poe Gratela, on the inhumane conditions under which Filipinos were deported.

"We are told to move slowly because we might offend the aggressor. We have allowed our pride and dignity to be lost."

–Sen. Manuel Villar, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, on the Department of Foreign Affairs' weak reaction every time the Philippines is embroiled in an international dispute.

"They are afraid that Filipinos in Sabah will one day wake up, rise in revolt and assert our rights over it."

–Abner Afuang, a former mayor of Pagsanjan, Laguna, who burned a Malaysian flag in front of the National Press Club office in Manila to protest Malaysia's treatment of Filipinos in Sabah. Manila contests ownership of Sabah Island, now part of Malaysia, but temporarily set aside its claim to improve its ties with Kuala Lumpur.

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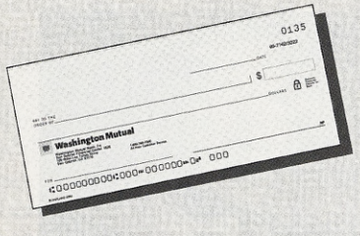

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Sins of the Fathers

The *Agence France Presse* reported that a Filipino American ex-nun sued three Roman Catholic archdioceses for allegedly protecting a priest who raped her 19 years ago.

Former nun Sylvia Martinez Arambulo, a naturalized U.S. citizen, sued the archdioceses of Los Angeles, San Antonio (in Texas) and Masbate in the Philippines for fraud and conspiring to conceal the identity and whereabouts of Monsignor Ernesto Villaroya.

Arambulo said Villaroya raped her in the Philippines in 1983. She gave birth to a son the following year, forcing her to leave the nunnery. "During the 1990's we sent him three letters when we found out that he was living in Los Angeles and performing the functions of a priest, and told him to cease and desist," George Goldberg, Arambulo's lawyer said. In 2002, the priest contacted Arambulo, who is now married to a U.S. citizen. While he did not admit to raping Arambulo, Villaroya signed in June an admission of paternity. "We believe Sylvia is not the only nun to have been raped by a priest. We believe this is the tip of the iceberg," Goldberg said.

The Pinoy State

Filipinos constitute the biggest Asian immigrant community in California, according to a report published by the *San Francisco Chronicle* on August 27. The 2000 Census tracked the foreign-born population in California, and while Mexicans led with 3,928,701, Filipinos outnumbered other Asian immigrants. The Census pegged the number of foreign-born Filipinos in the state at 664,935, followed closely by the Chinese (570,487) and Vietnamese (418,249).

The Bay Area hosts the biggest immigrant population in the state, with 27.5 percent of the population being foreign-born. The Bay Area Chinese constitute the biggest Asian immigrant population at 278,328. Filipino immigrants are a close second (232,945).

"The high share of Asian immigrants is something that's different here than the rest of California and the nation," observed Hans Johnson, demographer with the Public Policy Institute of California.

Johnson also noted that poverty among immigrants virtually does not exist in the Bay Area as in other parts of the state. "Asian immigrants are relatively well-educated," he said. "Immigrants from India were the best-educated immigrants, and those from Taiwan and the Philippines have very high levels of education as well."

Asiapalooza

The *San Jose Mercury News* featured the pioneers of piNoisepop, an Asian American festival of hip-hop, R&B, punk rock and folk music now on its seventh year. They are the members of a Filipino band called Skyflakes, named after the famous low-salt Filipino cracker. Brothers Ogie and Jesse Gonzales started playing music in the Philippines, and started a punk band when they immigrated to the U.S. Jesse hopes piNoisepop will start a trend outside of California, and encourage other Asian American indie bands.

One young Asian American artist reflected on the festival's value to him and other Asian American alternative bands: "There are more practical realities for immigrant families on what to do with your time. We're not supposed to be creative. We're known as nerds, techies, laundry and dry-cleaning people. We don't have a place to celebrate all this amazing art we're producing—making piNoisepop one of the best showcases of emerging Asian American bands in the Bay Area, even in the country as a whole."

Chronicle of a Debt Foretold

Filipino businessman Oscar Lopez landed on the cover of the August 15 issue of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* for his efforts to streamline the Lopez empire, as head of the Benpres Holdings Corporation, the family's investment company.

The *Review* likened the rise, and possible fall, of the oligarchic Lopezes to a plot straight out of a Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel. Oscar Lopez, however, is singled out as the low-key, studious character whose task is to trim the fat from the family's now-unwieldy holdings. Lopez hopes to rescue the corporation from its ballooning debt,

Debt-Free Legacy: *Oscar Lopez hopes to trim down the family's liabilities to more manageable levels.*

which now stands at some $596.9 million. Liabilities were incurred, the article said, because of the family's "self-appointed role as the Philippines' nation-builder." In June, Lopez humbly told shareholders that "In light of what has happened over the past five years, we have begun to question if this philosophy can be sensibly pursued." As one unnamed Benpres executive put it: "The family wants to go back to what they were before they felt compelled to go around buying everything up."

This may entail limiting the Lopezes' holdings to their core businesses, in the power and media industries, and giving up peripheral businesses in water services, telecommunications and even a ritzy new shopping mall and residential condominiums in Makati, Metro Manila's financial district. Nonetheless, Lopez said he wants to pass the dynasty, debt-free, to the next generation and let them "make their own mistakes." ■

Take Out—Queer Writing from Asian Pacific America
Edited by Quang Bao and Hanya Yanagihara
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508 pages; 2001

Take Out satisfies the hunger for sweet and saucy poetry, plays, prose and photographs from gay and lesbian Asian Americans. Filipino writers Joneil Adriano, Dan Bacalzo, Paolo Javier, Maiana Minahal and Vin G. Wolfe contribute to this collection.

BRIEFCASE

Budget, Beheadings Batter Peso

Analysts said news of a fresh wave of kidnappings and beheadings by the Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf and a widening budget deficit is weakening the peso. "First the kidnappings then the deficit. The market is on edge with these domestic concerns and the fact that Asian currencies are also down did not help the peso," a trader with a foreign bank said.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho announced late August that the deficit had reached P133 billion ($2.66 billion) as of July, exceeding the P130 billion ($2.6 billion) limit it set for the year. The government said it would try to reverse the trend.

"We know that this will be extremely tough to meet but we believe that it is more important to hold ourselves to our original target so that we remain aggressive in our fiscal discipline program," Camacho said.

VAT's the Matter

The government was cheated of some P700 million ($14 million) in value-added taxes (VAT), according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) audit of 500 small and medium companies starting May. "We can raise an additional P700 million once these companies pay their liabilities," said Finance Secretary Jose Camacho. He warned other delinquent firms that they would be sued for tax evasion, unless they filed for reassessment first.

The BIR in July filed charges and closed down 312 companies that underdeclared their VAT payments by P4 billion ($80 million), which translates to a P400 million ($8 million) loss for government.

Tax payments of big companies are up for review, and government expects to uncover bigger cases of tax evasion. Poor tax collection has been blamed for the government's budget shortfall.

More Dollars from the Diaspora

The Philippine economy is reaping increasing benefits from overseas Filipinos, with dollar remittances climbing by 45.13 percent in the first five months of the year, compared with the same period last year. Filipinos abroad sent home some $3.618 billion dollars from January to May this year, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

A greater number of Filipinos left for employment overseas in May, which rose from 388,898 the previous year to 405,539. Most went to work in Middle East countries.

In 2001, the number of Filipinos deployed overseas had dropped by about 100,000 from 4.8 million in 2000.

Fewer Strikes, Or Else

Foreign businessmen want to be assured of fewer labor strikes before they invest in the Philippines. The Joint Foreign Chambers in the Philippines asked the National Labor Relations Commission to expand the list of businesses that have a direct impact on the national interest.

This would allow the secretary of labor to assume jurisdiction over more labor disputes to prevent full-blown strikes. A member of the foreign business delegation specifically requested that the information technology (IT) sector be included on the list, because the Philippines in considered a top destination of foreign IT investments.

Labor officials said they would review the list and consider the delegation's request. They assured, however, that even within existing limitations, Malacañang could still assume jurisdiction over labor disputes to head off strikes in vital industries.

What's Up, Doc?

Organizers of the Carrot Cake Festival in La Trinidad, Benguet in November are jittery. They fear that the festival, a thanksgiving celebration for a bountiful harvest, will flop because the mountain province is fast losing its reputation as the vegetable capital of the Philippines. The culprit: cheaper imported carrots from China.

The cheap Chinese carrots flooded the local markets, causing Benguet farmers to lose an estimated P3.6 million ($72,000) in revenues in July. Benguet produces an average of 20 tons of carrots daily. Metro Manila's orders for Benguet carrots have declined, since the arrival of the cheaper carrots. Benguet officials urged government to investigate the sudden influx of Chinese carrots, suspecting that they are illegal imports. ■

TRANSITIONS

APPOINTED

Roco

Edilberto de Jesus, president of the Far Eastern University, as **Education Secretary,** last August. De Jesus replaces former Senator **Raul Roco,** who resigned after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo endorsed a graft inquiry into alleged anomalies in his department. Roco intends to run against Arroyo in the 2004 presidential polls.

Guillermo Parayno, former Customs Commisioner, to head the **Bureau of Internal Revenue,** last August. He replaces **Rene Bañez,** who resigned claiming that BIR employees were sabotaging efforts to reform the bureau.

FROZEN

Former President **Joseph Estrada**'s billion-peso bank deposits and other properties, by the anti-graft court **Sandiganbayan.** The freeze order is in line with criminal charges filed by the Office of the Ombudsman against Estrada.

CANCELLED

Pope John Paul's visit to Manila to attend the IV World Meeting of Families in Manila in January, due to his worsening health.

SENTENCED

Victor Pearson, former U.S. Marine Corps bomb disposal expert, to two life terms by a Bacolod City court, for raping a 15-year-old girl. Pearson faces 65 more counts of statutory rape, and may be meted a death sentence.

HIRED

Frank Quiambao, as president of the **West Los Angeles Community College,** after a nationwide search. Quiambao, who was previously interim president of the L.A. Harbor College, is the first Filipino American college president in California.

DEPLOYED

Doctors and **social workers,** by the Labor Department, to assist overseas Filipino workers. Health and labor officials are alarmed by the increase in the number of Filipinos overseas who tested positive for the HIV virus.

LEAP Leadership Program

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP) held the graduation of its 5th Annual Leadership In Action Summer Internship program last August 16. The program exposes young leaders, ages 21 and over, to select Asian Pacific American organizations in Southern California to let them gain real-life experience working with prominent members of the Asian Pacific American community. The graduation program featured the interns' group project—a youth leadership development program. The graduates include: Tina R. Bhaga of University of California, LA (UCLA), Tami Bui of UC, Irvine, Carly Hamaguchi of Smith College, Daisy Belle Morales of UC, Riverside, Mari Nakano of UCLA, Melanie Ann Tom of UC, San Diego and Victoria Tung of University of Pennsylvania. The event was sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

Ad Awards

The Asian American Advertising Federation or 3AF, will hold an advertising awards competition on October 3, as part of the Asian American Marketing Conference in New York City. The awards will recognize outstanding companies and individuals who have made an impact in the Asian American market. There will be three categories: The Creative Agency of the Year, The Marketer of the Year and The Newsmaker of the Year. The winners will be honored at a luncheon presentation sponsored by Allstate Insurance Company. For more information about the conference, visit www.3af.org.

Reception for Ex-Senator

On October 10, Kultura Pilipinas, a University of Oregon student organization, is hosting a dinner reception on campus in honor of former Philippine Senator Anna Dominique Coseteng. Coseteng is on a promotional tour for her book *Sinaunang Habi,* (Philippine Ancestral Weave) which is about preserving this endangered cultural practice of indigenous people. There will be a dinner buffet and a Q&A session followed by a book signing. General admission is $9 and $6 for students. For more information, contact Glen Park at Jisoo23@hotmail.com or call (541) 434-6382.

Anthology Submissions

Submissions are being accepted for the creative non-fiction anthology *Behind the Walls: Life of Convent Girls 1960-1980.* The book will be a collection of various essays describing the life of the Filipina convent girl from 1960 to 1980 edited by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard and Marily Orosa. The essays may include reminiscences, personal stories of day-to-day living, meaningful moments in convent school, teachers that changed lives, favorite and hated nuns, best friends, studies, amusing incidents, sad moments, social life, dating, falling in love, boarding-house living—anything that describes the life of the *colegiala.* Manuscripts should be eight to ten pages long (approximately 1,800 to 2,300 words), typewritten, double-spaced and e-mailed to Cbrainard@aol.com or to marilyo@yahoo.com. Manuscripts may also be e-mailed to Marily Orosa at Studio 5, 28 Paseo de Roxas, BelAir I, Makati City, Philippines. Deadline is November 15, 2002. Please include a 150 word bio in narrative form, note the years in convent school and two photos, one in convent school and a current one.

FANHS 20th Anniversary: The Filipino American National Historical Society celebrated its 20th anniversary in conjunction with its 9th National Conference last July 24 to 28 at the Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. (L-R top) FANHS founders Fred and Dorothy Cordova, Florante Ibañez, (bottom) Vicki Manalo Draves and Lyle Draves.

San Francisco International Film Festival

The San Francisco International Film Festival is calling for entries for its 46th festival to run April 24 to May 8, 2003. Narrative features, documentaries, shorts, animation, experimental and television productions on film, video and digital media may be submitted. Entry forms may be obtained online at www.sffs.org. Entry forms and guidelines may be requested by e-mail at gga@sffs.org or programming@sffs.org, by fax at (415) 561-5099 or by mail at Programming Department, San Francisco Film Society, 39 Mesa Street, Suite 110, The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129. Deadline for submissions is November 15, 2002.

Lameco Eskrima Classes

Founded by the late Punong Guru Edgar G. Sulite, Lameco Eskrima, a warrior art of the Philippines, is being taught by Lameco SOG. The group trains individuals at the Kali Club sa SIPA in a non-commercial, combat-realistic environment where art, culture and heritage are part of the curriculum. For fall, classes are ongoing till November 25. Students are required to use black workout clothes, bring a notebook, rattan sticks and training knife. For more information, e-mail Dino Flores at dino@ATF1898.com or visit www.mandirigma.org.

c2it New Lower Pricing

c2it by Citibank, the online money transfer service, is making it easier for Filipino Americans to remit money to the Philippines by offering new lower pricing. c2it reduced the transaction fee for a direct deposit to only $10. Pricing details can be viewed at www.c2it.com. c2it allows the convenience to send money via a computer from your own home or office. c2it provides guaranteed rate of exchange and dependable 24-hour Citibank customer service at 1-800-200-3881.

Proposition 52 Gains Momentum

Prop 52, a simple reform allowing unregistered, eligible voters who have valid identification to register and vote on Election Day, is gaining momentum and support from Californians, according to a statewide poll by the Public Policy Institute of America. Sixty-one percent of Californians now support Prop 52. An increase in voter turnout is expected because of this. ■

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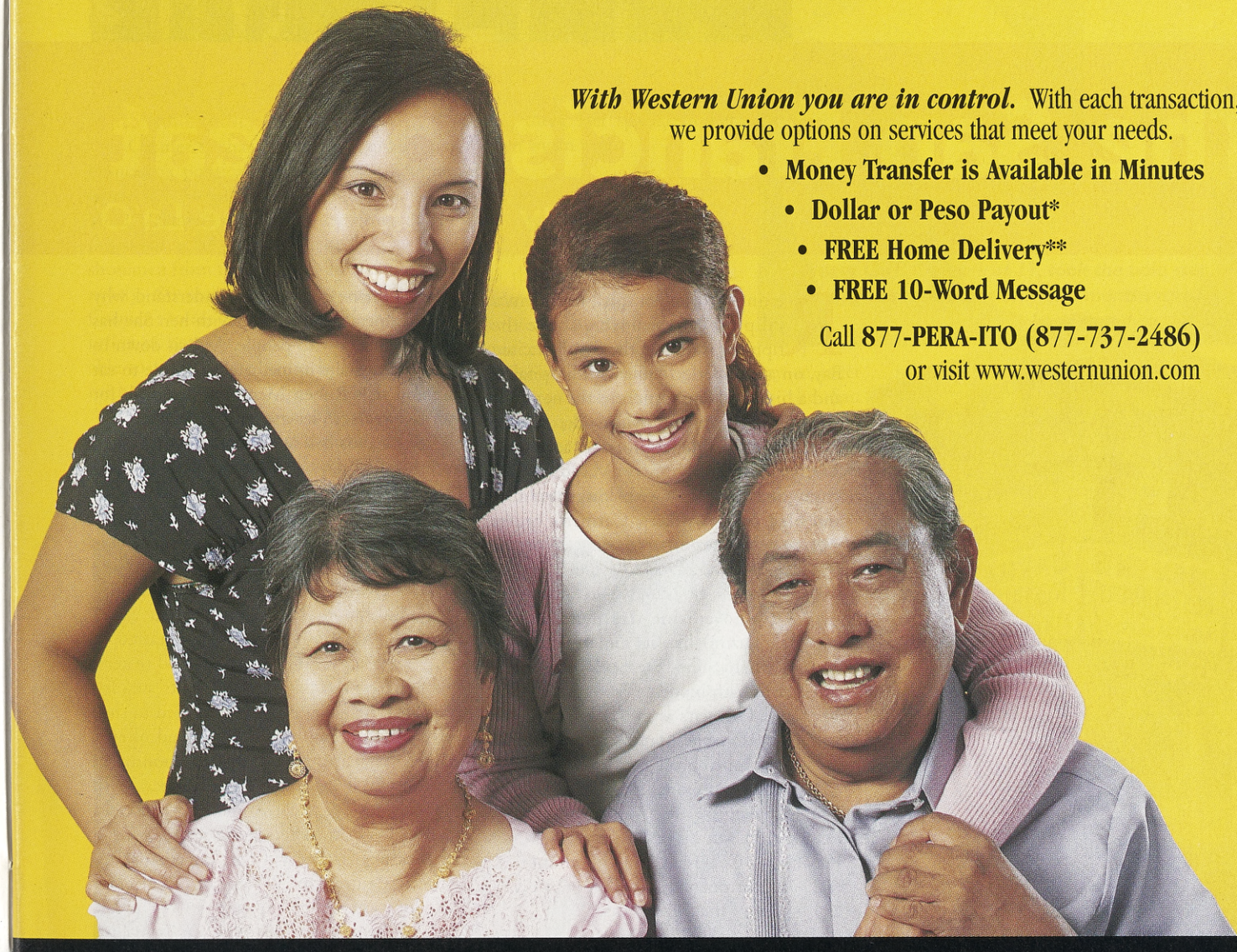

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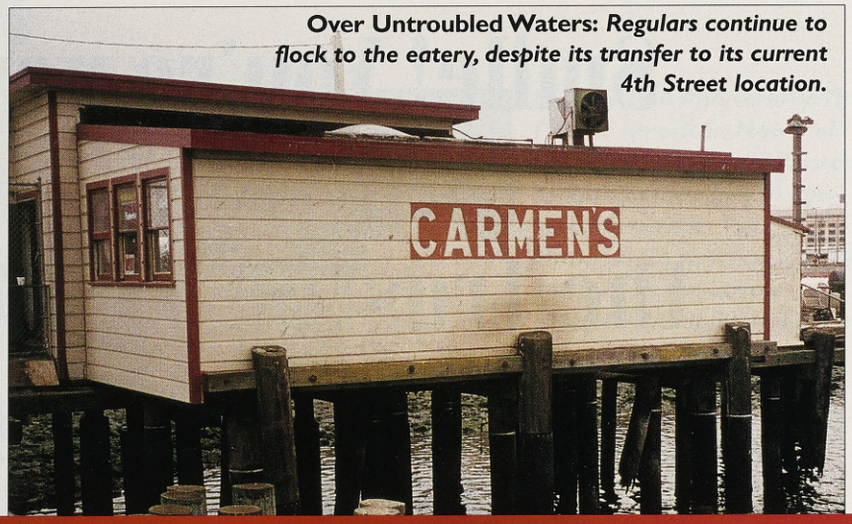
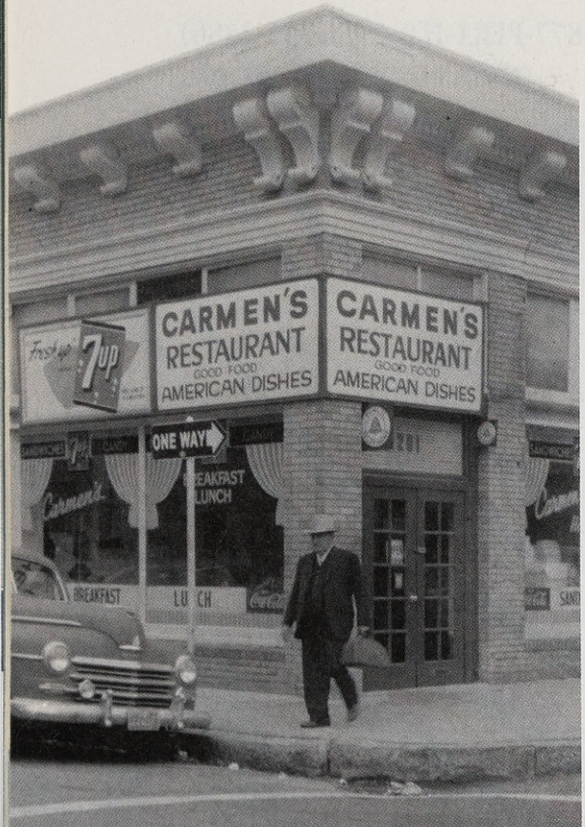
Carmen's



Over Untroubled Waters: ***Regulars continue to flock to the eatery, despite its transfer to its current 4th Street location.***

The San Francisco Treat

By Samantha Anne La'O



The Original: ***Carmen bought the restaurant in the '50s with borrowed money which she repaid in a little over a year.***

Resting on wooden stilts, Carmen's, a Filipino eatery, hovers above the rippling waters of the San Francisco Bay, on a foundation built with hospitality and a historical connection to the community. With prominent visitors like current Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Daly City Mayor Mike Guingona mingling with longshoremen and blue collar workers, Carmen's brings everyone together for a relaxing, enjoyable and authentic home-cooked meal. For 45 years, Carmen's has dazzled its customers with Filipino cuisine (influences from northern Luzon) like its annatto-flavored *adobo* (which colors the pork stew a sizzling red). With modest prices that average about $5, Carmen's is not only affordable but also reasonable. Many customers come for a quick lunch break or stop by for take-out on their way home for dinner. Due to redevelopment plans set for the bridge and roadway on 4th Street in downtown San Francisco, Carmen's has the chance to widen its customer base with an anticipated upgrade of the original eatery.

Her Own Boss

When I meet Carmen F. Solis, she is impeccably attired with a dress shirt and matching pants. She walks slowly but confidently to each table and asks if anyone needs more water or drinks or if the food is warm enough. Recuperating from a stroke in 1997, Solis walks with a cane and is now considered "retired" by the rest of the staff and customers. I can easily understand why her customers feel a kinship with her. She has a maternal way with people. As I sit down to interview her, she immediately asks me to eat first and tells Ruben Mendoza, her cook for over five years, to let me try "everything."

She stands beside a framed picture taken from her first days at Carmen's back in April 13, 1957. "I was only seventeen. They couldn't even give me a liquor license. I served soft drinks and water. I was too young to serve alcohol," she states matter-of-factly smiling the same girlish smirk in her framed photo.

Solis immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in 1954 and started to work at Clara's, an American-food eatery, where she cooked, cleaned and waitressed for a living. When Clara's owners decided to shut down business, Solis took action and offered to buy the place, after only two months of working and living in the United States. With a loan of $2,500 and two months' pay, Solis was able to establish herself as a restaurateur in the bustling Downtown San Francisco area, between Drumm and Washington, currently the location of the impressive Hyatt Embarcadero. "I wanted to be my own boss and not answer to anybody," she explains.

"I wanted to be in charge of myself." She also wanted to be in charge of the new menu that fused American tastes with her native Filipino cuisine.

"I started to cook adobo with rice that had eggs on top of it for a breakfast item. The longshoremen loved it. They still ask for that dish after forty-five years," she remarks softly. New customers affectionately call her

"Manang Carmen" and kiss her on the cheek on their way in. Her breakfast specialty on the waterfront started a craze, as similar dishes were created by other Filipino eateries. This established Solis as the pioneer of a local eating trend (eggs over adobo and rice).

Carmen's moved its location twice before settling on the 4th Street location which opened in 1983 and has been "home" to many of its customers. Ed Palomar, a manager at the Pacific Bell Stadium parking says, "This place is like home to me. People here speak the same language and eat the same food that I would eat back in the Philippines."

In fact, people not only come to Carmen's to eat, they also gather at night for karaoke or dancing.

An Institution Connected to its Community

Carmen's has also navigated San Francisco's political upheavals. For example, when the longshoremen were on strike in 1962, Carmen's supported their efforts by giving them a 50 percent discount. The longshoremen from that generation, some of them nearly 80-years-old, still come back to Carmen's to eat their favorite dishes. With the influx of homeless people in 1989, Solis was able to feed those who flocked to her eatery for help.

In 1992, the location of Carmen's on 4th Street caused a huge stir as the community rallied to save the restaurant from being evicted. With the support from attorneys Rod McLeod, Rene Picardo and most of all—her customers, the case won and instilled a sense of dedication and loyalty between the owner and the customers.

"I love my customers and I try my best to do the most for them," Solis says. Ernie Abalos, a San Francisco mortgage broker, says Solis treats her customers like her family. "One time when a new customer came in with her newborn, Carmen went and got some flowers for the new mother and money for the baby. She is just that way. She is very kind," Abalos recalls. On a brief visit, I witness Carmen taking the time to joke with customers and making them feel special in her own warm way.

Investment Possibilities

As a result of the Mission Bay Development project, one of the biggest to occur in San Francisco history, Solis plans to recruit potential partners and investors who would be interested in renovating the eatery to meet new requirements set forth by the San Francisco Port Commission. At a mere 800 square feet, Solis is expecting to double the size in order to accommodate more customers and keep her lease on the same property.

Gutsy Girl: ***Carmen, at 17, took the bold step of buying the restaurant only two months after she immigrated to the U.S.***

"Carmen's needs to be improved so it's not considered a nuisance to the rest of the development," she explains. She needs approximately $300,000-$1,000,000,000 dollars to come up to new standards. With the merging of different investors, Solis is willing to make changes under two conditions: that the eatery will always be named "Carmen's" and that it will always serve Filipino food.

Rod McLeod, a San Francisco lawyer and Carmen's devotee, indicates that the renovations will be beneficial.

"Carmen's has the potential to have bigger accommodations and to draw more customers," he explains. Meanwhile, Solis is asking loyal customers to come to her establishment's temporary site on Pier 40 (between Embarcadero and Townsend) while renovations are in progress for approximately a year and a half starting this month.

In the future, Carmen's expects to change its atmosphere to fulfill the new standards, but for Ed Palomar, a loyal customer who likes the *kare-kare* (oxtail stew) for lunch, Carmen's —renovated or not—"will always be the same place where everybody knows your name." ■

Culinary Couple: ***Carmen and her husband Benito Solis have welcomed Philippine and city dignitaries, as well as blue-collar workers to their unpretentious*** **karinderya** ***(eatery). Benito is the chef, while Carmen takes care of business.***

Samantha Anne La'O writes the "Buzz" column and can be reached at samanthalao@aol.com.

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Filipinas MAGAZINE

Health Net® The power of new thinking

Tell a Friend

By Maria Lourdes F. Reyes, MD, MPH

"You have breast cancer" are some of the most frightening words a woman may ever hear. Women of Asian and Asian/Pacific Islander backgrounds are hearing those dreaded words more than ever, having experienced a 20 percent increase in breast cancer since 1988, according to the California Cancer Facts & Figures 2002. Filipino women have even higher rates of breast cancer than other Asian American women, and some studies show they may be the least likely of all Asians to survive the disease.

Due in part to cultural taboos surrounding discussion of intimate parts of the body, Asian women are less likely than women of other ethnic groups to get regular screenings for breast cancer. A mammogram—a simple breast x-ray—is a woman's best tool for catching the disease in its early stages, when the most treatment options are available and chances of survival are greatest. Additionally, a mammogram can find a cancer several years before a woman or her health care provider might discover it through other screening methods. The American Cancer Society advises women ages 40 and over to have a mammogram every year.

The good news is that Asian American women do have very powerful allies in the fight against breast cancer: each other. Through the American Cancer Society's "Tell A Friend" program, trained volunteers choose five friends or acquaintances and encourage them to get a mammogram. This method for spreading the word is also called "peer counseling" because the volunteers contact women in their own communities, neighborhoods and churches. These women need encouragement and support to get screened every year.

Difficulties with English and the belief that cancer is an unavoidable fate are two barriers that prevent many Asian American women from getting a mammogram. So the American Cancer Society has designed an Asian "Tell A Friend" program with materials in five Asian languages including two Filipino languages—Tagalog and Ilokano.

"Tell A Friend" volunteers contacted more than 244,000 women last year. About 98 percent of women whose breast cancer is detected in the earliest stages survive the disease. Research generates

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new information and therapies for breast cancer each year. Treatments are getting better all the time, and so is awareness, with the help of programs like "Tell A Friend."

When the question, "Have you had your annual mammogram?" comes from a friend, it helps combat the fear and shame that may keep women from scheduling an annual mammogram. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. You can help recognize this important public health issue by telling a friend to take charge of her health and get a mammogram. For more information or to become a "Tell A Friend" volunteer, contact your American Cancer Society toll-free at 1-800-ACS-2345.

Five Things to Tell Your Friend About Breast Cancer:

All women are at risk for breast cancer—even those who have no family history of the disease.

The two greatest risk factors for breast cancer are being a woman and growing older.

Survival rates are high for women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer, when the cancer is small and has not spread. Get annual mammograms beginning at age 40, and start going to your doctor for breast exams and doing monthly breast self-exams by age 20.

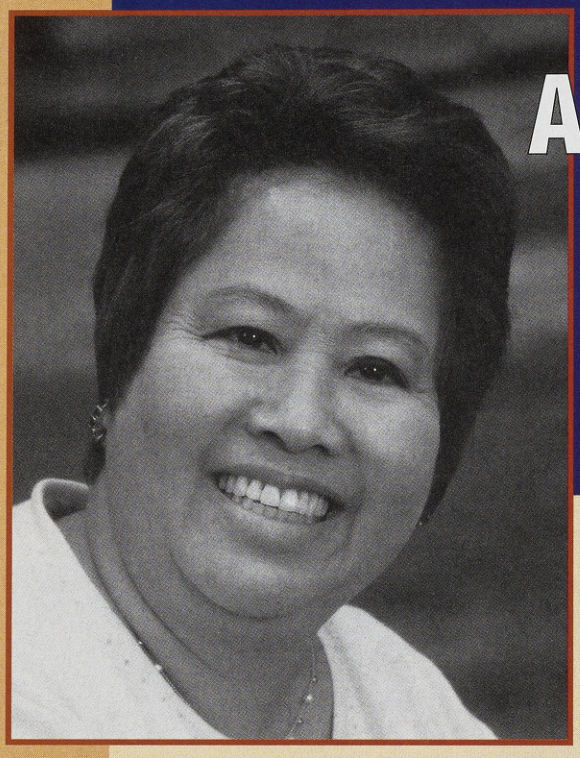
Smart strategies to reduce your risk of cancer include regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight and limiting alcohol intake.

Through early detection and improved treatment, more women than ever are beating breast cancer.

Tell your friends, women in your family—any woman you care about. You could save a life.

Maraming salamat po. Mabuhay! ■

Maria Lourdes F. Reyes, MD, MPH is the past president of the American Cancer Society, California Division from 2000 to 2001.



A Survivor's Story

By Pilar Del Rosario

Twelve years ago, when I was 42 years old, I thought I didn't need to get screened for breast cancer. But my husband, who works at a hospital, had encouraged me to get a mammogram.

A milky substance in my breast resulted in a second screening. The doctors found a cyst and two kinds of cancer cells, and recommended a mastectomy. Because my husband had been in the U.S. military, I was able to go to a military hospital for a second opinion. I wanted to make sure.

The recommendation was the same, and I had surgery only two weeks after the diagnosis. I was crying and very scared. My children were very young at the time. I just didn't want to take any chance on it getting worse. I had to be strong for myself and for my family. In that situation, you do the best you can.

I spent four days in the hospital, but soon I was able to do all the things I had been doing before. Everything has been fine since, and I still go for my mammogram every year.

After my surgery, American Cancer Society volunteers visited my home and advised me on my options such as getting a prosthetic or an implant. From then on, the Society was in my life. My daughter even went to work for the Society two years ago, and I volunteer and help out however I can. Last October, my husband joined the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk in Sacramento, and at work, collected donations for a cure.

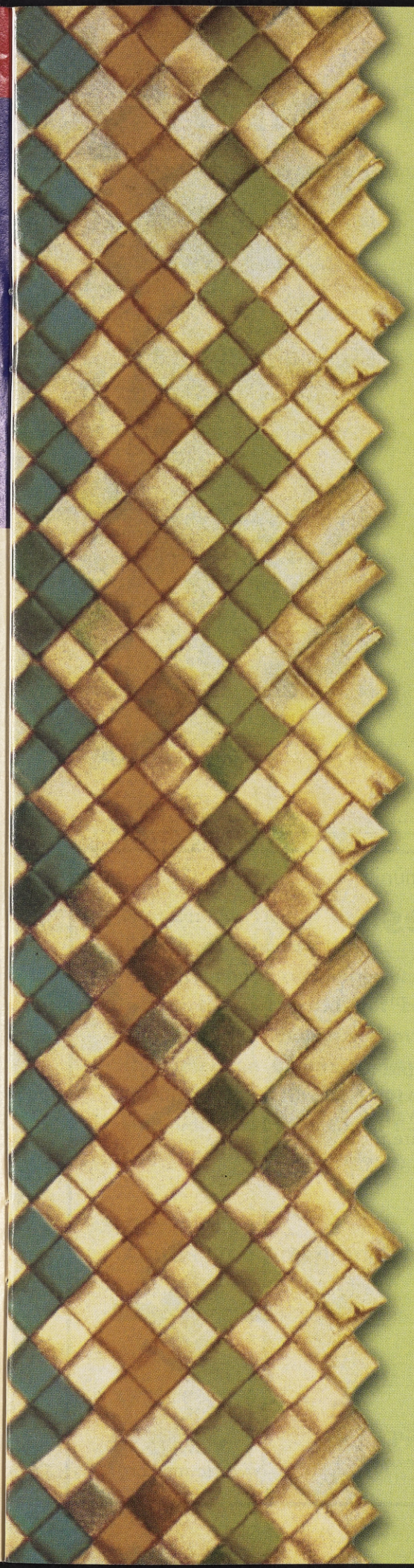
The American Cancer Society recently invited me to participate in a photo exhibit that raises awareness by sharing the stories of women who have survived breast cancer. Women from nearly every ethnic group were involved.

I strongly recommend that other Filipino women ages 40 and older get their mammogram every year. In most cases it will not find anything wrong. But if cancer is found early, you can prevent it from getting worse.

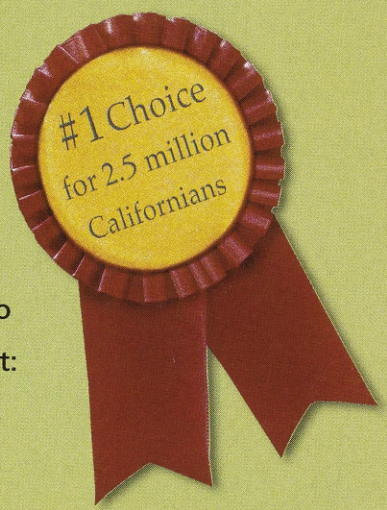
One of my sisters also has breast cancer, but my other two sisters don't. Some Asian women think they can't get breast cancer, especially if no one in the family has it, but every woman is at risk. It's best to be safe and get a mammogram every year, as well as an annual breast exam by your health provider and to do a breast self-exam every month.

Surviving breast cancer has given me a greater appreciation for life and all that it has to offer. It has brought my family closer together and has given me the ability to reach out to other women who have experienced breast cancer. Not only am I a survivor; I am a stronger person because of it. ■

Pilar del Rosario is a housewife who lives in Vallejo, California.



Your Health is Your Wealth



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American Cancer Society
Breast Cancer Resources

If it hasn't already, breast cancer will likely touch you or someone you know. The disease will strike more than 200,000 U.S. women this year and claim more than 40,000 lives.

For people living with cancer, a strong support network is essential. This is especially important in communities where language barriers or culture may discourage discussion about diseases like cancer. The American Cancer Society offers many resource programs for breast cancer patients and their families:

Reach to Recovery

Breast cancer survivors volunteer to visit women with breast cancer. They are trained to respond to the concerns of women newly diagnosed with cancer, up to the time of treatment and recovery.

Patient and Family Education Materials

The Society provides booklets, videos and other information to breast cancer patients and their loved ones.

I Can Cope

This program consists of a series of educational classes for people with cancer and their loved ones. Classes provide information about cancer diagnosis and treatment, and help participants cope with the physical and emotional challenges of cancer.

Look Good...Feel Better

This program helps women with cancer develop self-confidence and skills to cope with changes in appearance and with side effects of cancer treatments such as dry skin and hair loss.

Transportation Programs

American Cancer Society volunteers provide free transportation to women undergoing treatment or who need a ride to a doctor's appointment.

Cancer Survivors Network

A first-of-its-kind phone and Internet service that links cancer survivors and their caregivers. Discussion topics cover a wide range of subjects such as fears of recurrence, caregiver information and more.

In addition to these ongoing services, ACS also holds an annual event during Breast Cancer Awareness month in October called Making Strides against Breast Cancer. This non-competitive walk is designed to raise awareness and raise funds for breast cancer research, services, patient education, and advocacy. You can walk, become a team leader, volunteer, become a sponsor or make a donation. Contact your American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org. ■

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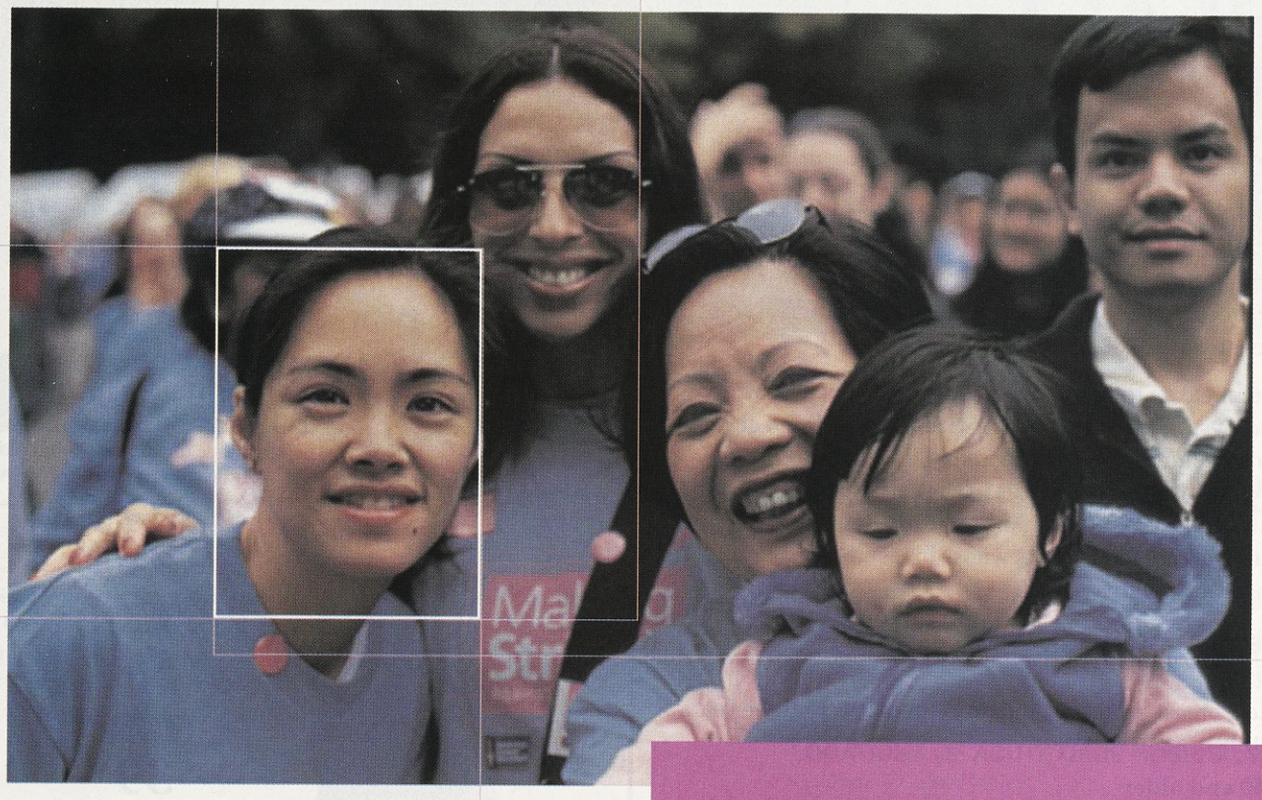

Making Strides
Against Breast Cancer™

It's about survival.
It's about early detection.
And it's about remembering those for whom the cures did not come soon enough. This October, get involved with the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in your community, and help make breast cancer a thing of the past.

Get involved.
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Hope.Progress.Answers.

BREAST CANCER

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THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION

Breast cancer incidence in U.S. women has been fairly stable for many years. However, the breast cancer rate among women of Asian/Pacific Islander ancestry has increased by 20 percent since 1988.

The main reason that Asian women are less likely to win their battles with breast cancer is that fewer of them get regular screenings. They are therefore less likely to be diagnosed when their cancer is in the earliest stages and when it is most treatable. Thanks to early detection, the five-year survival rate for patients whose breast cancers are diagnosed at an early stage is 98%.

SCREENING GUIDELINES

Ages 20-39

- Clinical breast exam by a doctor or nurse every three years
- Monthly breast self-exam

Ages 40 and older

- Annual mammography
- Annual clinical breast exam by a doctor or nurse (done close to the time of the mammography)
- Monthly breast self-exam

RISK FACTORS

Age ◆ Family history in mothers or sisters ◆ Precancerous condition on breast biopsy ◆ No children or first child born after age 30 ◆ Obesity ◆ Early onset of menstruation ◆ Late menopause ◆ Identification of cancer genes

It is important to note that most breast cancer patients have no obvious risk factors.

RISK REDUCTION

Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables every day ◆ Drink alcohol in moderation if at all ◆ Maintain a normal weight ◆ Exercise 30 minutes or more on most days of the week

WARNING SIGNS

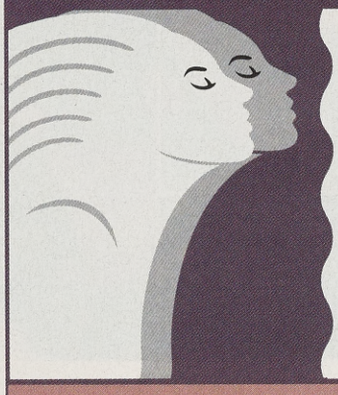
- Breast lump, thickening, swelling or skin irritation
- Bleeding from the nipple
- Retraction of the nipple

Five-Year Survival Rates

98% Localized to primary site

88% All stages of the disease

More Women are Getting Screened



Percentage of women 40 and older who were screened in 2000

63%

2000

1987

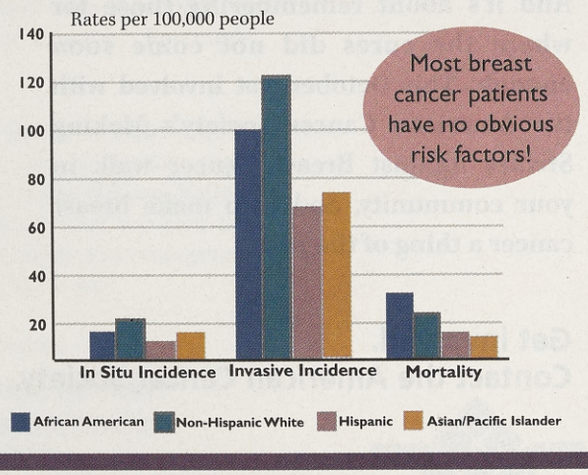
39%

Survival

The 5-year survival rate is 98% when breast cancer is detected in the early stages.

Breast Cancer Incidence & Mortality

By Race/Ethnicity (2001 estimates)



Estimated New Cases	Estimated Deaths
Female 22,145 Male 135	Female 4,080 Male 25

2003

Source: American Cancer Society and California Cancer Registry

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- Regional leader in infant deliveries, neonatology, orthopedics, pediatrics and cancer care services, delivering high quality care in more than 100 communities
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- 8 affiliated medical groups, 8 aligned independent practice associations, 5 long-term facilities and 9 cancer centers
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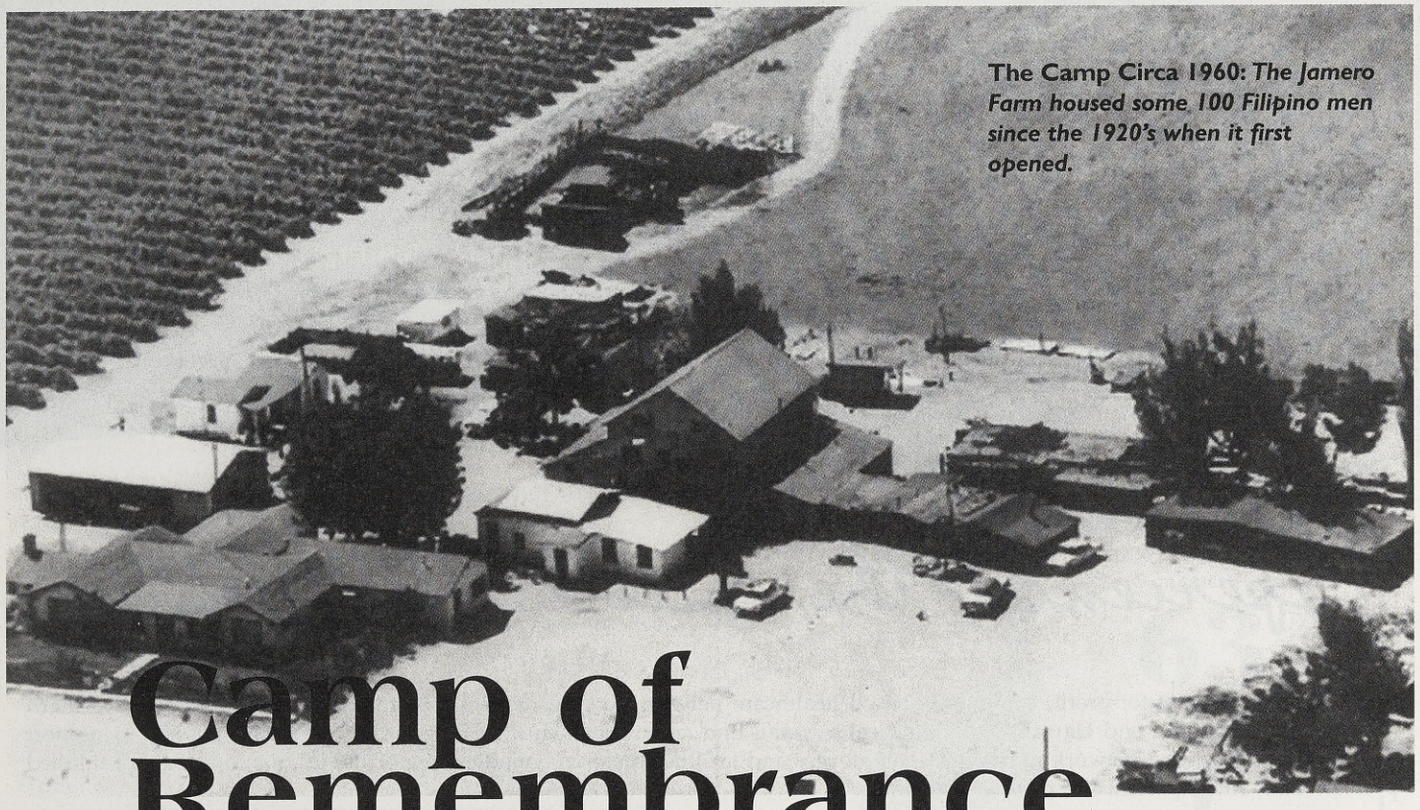


The Camp Circa 1960: ***The Jamero Farm housed some 100 Filipino men since the 1920's when it first opened.***

Camp of Remembrance

By A. E. Maddela

Increasingly more Filipino Americans hunger for information about the American side of their history. The Jamero Farm is one of the first places to go for an appreciation of the Filipino workers' contribution to California's agricultural industry through half of the last century. Recognizing the Livingston *campo*'s (labor camp) significance, the Jamero family has preserved some of the original buildings for visitors to experience.

Ceferino Ladesma and Apolonia Madelo Jamero opened the campo in the 1920's. Ceferino was the labor contractor, his wife Apolonia the bookkeeper and their eight children—Peter, Herb, Ceferino Junior, Apola (now deceased), George, Luna, Silverio and Joe—helped run the camp. The parents died in the 1980's, but their surviving sons and daughters maintain the historic site and museum, which has been honored by the Central Valley Chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society.

Herb and his 58-year-old sister, Luna, run the museum and maintain the grounds, which include a pool hall and dining hall. Visitors will marvel at the simplicity of some of the objects that were used by their pioneers—homemade tables, wooden benches, cots, an old-fashioned Coke machine, and the pool table that provided a measure of joy to the farm laborers. Garnering the most interest are the photos the family has collected during the camp's 50-year history.

As labor contractor, Ceferino negotiated the workers' wages with the local ranchers and farm owners. He was one of the first activists of his era, striving to win his workers decent wages. In return, the men paid room and board, pool table and gambling fees, and purchased wine, beer, cigarettes and sundries from the store.

Herb, 68, said, "My mother Apolonia kept the ledger of monies owed. In special circumstances of illness, the debt was waived. This happened frequently, but in some cases, some men became handymen around the camp as a way of repaying their debt."

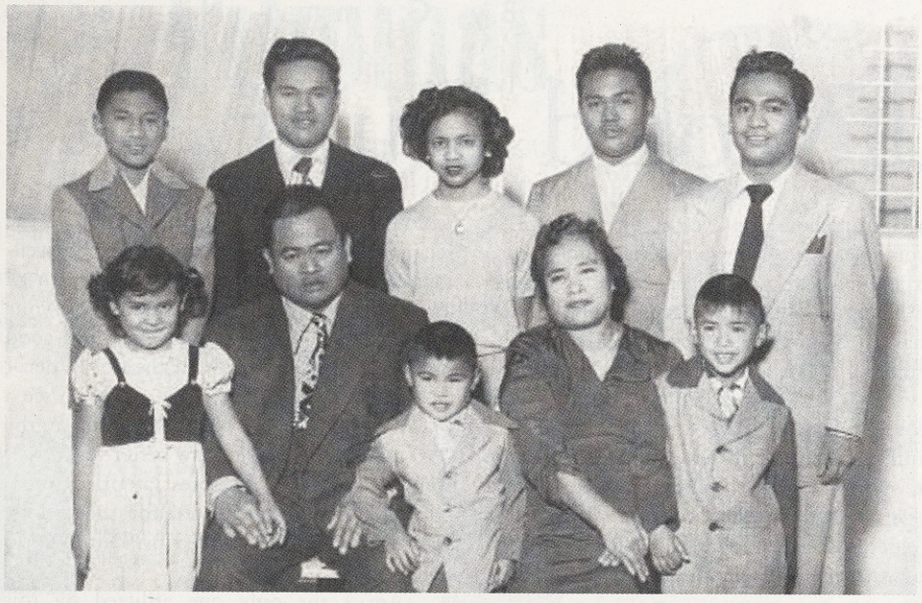
Herb knows about the hardships of the workers who stayed at the campo. He grew up around them, chopping and heating wood for their *baño* (communal shower), preparing their food, washing their dishes and helping in the pool hall. During World War II, the teenager earned 75 cents an hour in the peach orchards and vineyards alongside men who took home a dollar a day just a decade earlier.

"There were incidents of blatant discrimination which included farmers who reneged on agreed wages," he recalls. "During this era, the Filipino men knew that contacts outside the camp, such as going into town, were to be kept at a minimum."

Peter Sr., the 71-year-old patriarch of the Jamero family, does not want to give the impression that the campo workers led the desperate, miserable lives often associated with Dust Bowl workers during the Great Depression. He said, "Campo life on the Jamero Camp was not necessarily the dismal life as described by John Steinbeck or Carlos Bulosan. Ceferino was able to negotiate higher wages and maintained a strong working relationship with local farmers. Moreover, the workers were not charged an excessive amount for food and lodging. The workers were provided a separate building to play pool and cards. They also had liberal access to the kitchen and camp facilities. And because farm workers were from the same region in the Philippines, they tended to be more compatible with each other."

Filipinos in the '20s and '30s formed communities around Masonic lodges and Philippine hometown organizations, such as the Sons and Daughters of Garcia Hernandez, whose members included Apolonia and Ceferino. There were three major camps in the Central Valley, and each served as a type of hometown organization. The Livingston camp housed as many as 100 Visayans at a time.

Unlike contemporary Filipino Americans, those in the early 20th century did not



The Jamero Family: ***Ceferino Jamero (front, second from left) and his wife Apolonia (front, second from right) opened the Livingston labor camp in the 1920's to give tribute to the contribution of the Filipino workers to California's agricultural industry. Their children helped run the camp (clockwise from left: George, Herb, Apola, Ceferino Jr., Peter, Silverio, Joe and Luna).***

depend much on local churches for support. Peter said, "While they considered themselves Catholic, the great majority of workers did not actively participate in the faith, nor did priests play a significant role in their lives. Religious holidays were celebrated with Easter egg hunts and Christmas gift exchanges."

Of course, the camp's menu was decidedly Filipino. Herb fondly recalls, "The typical menu at the camp was fried fish, always rice and a combination of meat and vegetables cooked in a large wok by Ceferino. In the early days of the campo, the only American dish was toast and eggs."

The men lived in the camp until they were too old to work. In the mid-1970's the Livingston camp closed down, signaling the end of a major wave of Filipino immigrants in America. Herb said, "This wave arrived during the Great Depression, a time when people with degrees were relegated to the fields or kitchens. The later waves were college-educated professionals who were needed in the cities."

Herb can provide a wealth of information on this segment of Filipino American history, but he is also a knowledgeable source for people trying to chronicle their own family history. If you wish to catalog your family's history, start with a visit to his campo.

The camp is located at 1423 West Magnolia Street in Livingston, California (ZIP 95334), two hours outside of San Francisco. Before you visit, call Herb Jamero, at (209) 394-7183, to arrange a personal tour. ■

Anthony E. Maddela is a writer living in Los Angeles. His fiction is represented by Wales Literary Agency.

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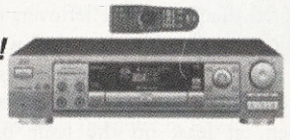

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SLANT

By Gemma Nemenzo

Third World Guilt

I used to cringe whenever I hear someone utter the cliché "you can take the Filipino out of the Philippines, but you can't take the Philippines out of the Filipino." Here comes the inevitable marketing pitch, I would tell myself, and then I would let my mind go blank, letting the pitch whoosh by me without so much as a dent in my consciousness.

But now that I have grown older and more forgiving of pitch-makers and politicians, I have come to appreciate the truth in that cliché. Like most first-generation immigrants who moved to this country as adults there are certain things that we just cannot shake off or even dilute. And I am not talking about accents, way of dressing or food tastes here.

One of the most tenacious ones is what I facetiously call "Third World guilt," an attitude that can be both endearing and repulsive. It was Third World guilt that made me grumble to my children, each time they picked on their food or left a lot uneaten, that they were too spoiled and wasteful, that they should not forget the millions of children in—take your pick: Manila, India, Afghanistan—who do not have anything to eat. They would roll their eyes and attempt to humor me by finishing off as much as they could, until they could not take anymore and then it was up to me to eat whatever was left on their plates. Until one day, one of them, in mock earnestness, suggested that I send the leftovers to the starving children instead because they were getting sick of my guilt-tripping and I was getting fat from the extra food intake. I stopped my nagging then, at least on the issue of their eating habits.

It did not stop me, however, from saving leftovers, even if I knew we would never eat them again. How I wish we had a dog or a pig to pass these on to, I would say, remembering our dogs back home and the scrawny little boy who used to go around the neighborhood gathering *kanin-baboy* (pig slop). (I conveniently forgot that in this country where pets are better cared for than people, feeding your dog scraps from the kitchen instead of scientifically formulated dog food can be considered scandalous, or even a bit criminal.) I would let these leftovers decay into science experiments in the refrigerator before throwing them out. Sure it was gross but better that than to be haunted by the faces of starving children.

This same congenital guilt made me set aside a paper bag or a box where I would stash stuff that I intend to send to the Philippines. In it I would put useless little knickknacks that I get as freebies when I attend a marketing event or donate money to a charity; stuffed toys that one wins in amusement parks; items I would buy in garage sales and discount stores but couldn't find any use or space for; clothes that are still good but the kids have outgrown; leftover Halloween candies; shoes I could not wear because they pinch in the wrong places; Christmas decorations that I bought for 75 percent off; books I got on sale but won't be reading again; and a big pile of magazines that I can't bear to throw away because I wanted to donate them to the public library in my father's rural hometown.

I realized that gifts carelessly given are worse than not giving anything at all.

Never mind that my family back home actually has no use for most of these stuff, that they have actually hinted that they find it tedious, if not downright insulting, to be the recipient of our discards, no matter how well-intentioned the gesture is. Just give them all away, I would instruct. I assumed everyone would be grateful for the largesse from good ol' U.S. of A, the big PX in the sky. When I went home one year, I was surprised to see a pile of things that I had sent still sitting in the box, unwanted. Worse, I saw better versions of some of the stuff in stores, at prices more attractive than what I paid for them. First World magnanimity dashed by Third World ingenuity.

Am I the only one afflicted by this guilt/generosity syndrome? I suspect there are many of you out there who feel the same way. The door-to-door forwarders are thriving, and each time a Philippine Airlines flight leaves the U.S., it is filled to the rafters with *balikbayan* (cargo) boxes. And that is a good thing. I think our propensity for gift-giving and sharing our blessings with our relatives back home is a trait we should always be proud of.

In moments of introspection however, I can't help but feel that this generosity can be overdone, that there is a thin line separating thoughtfulness from insensitivity, genuine caring from bragging. It was a humbling experience for me, seeing that pile of unwanted stuff in my sister's house, because I know better now. Whenever I get the chance to send something home, I ask each one for a list of things they need or want from here that are not available there. And when I do my annual assessment of stuff that are to be given away, I end up hauling a bigger stash to the local charities that collect them instead of dumping them all into balikbayan boxes. After all, turtleneck sweaters and winter boots are not coveted items in our homeland. And magazines that talk about "how to drive men crazy in bed" and "how to lose weight in 20 days" will do nothing to improve the life of a young mother who can hardly feed her family a full meal each day. ■

Gemma Nemenzo can be reached at gnn88@aol.com.

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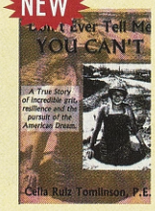

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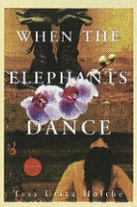

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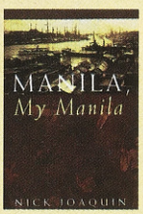

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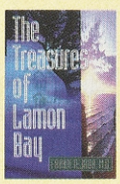

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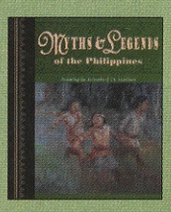

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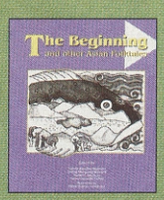

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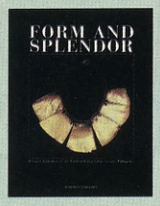

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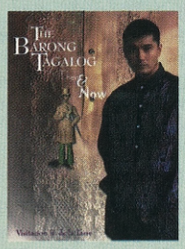

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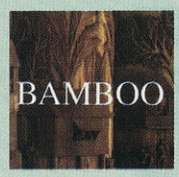

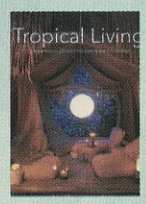

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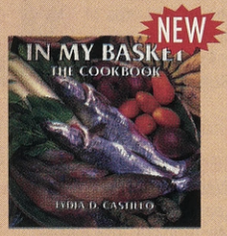

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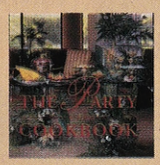

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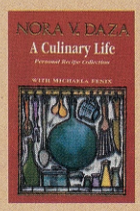

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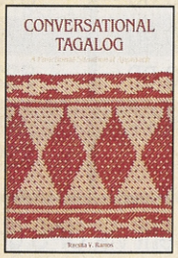

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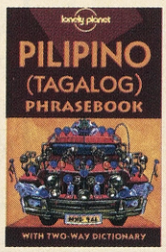

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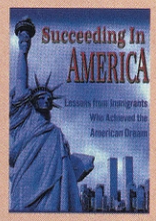

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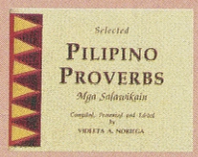

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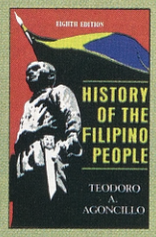

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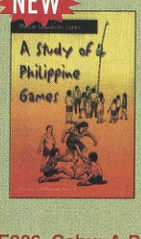

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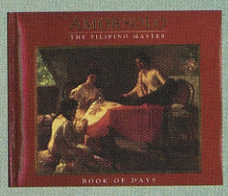

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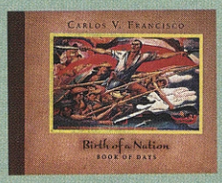

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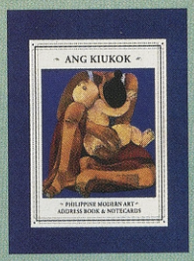

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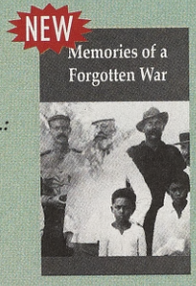

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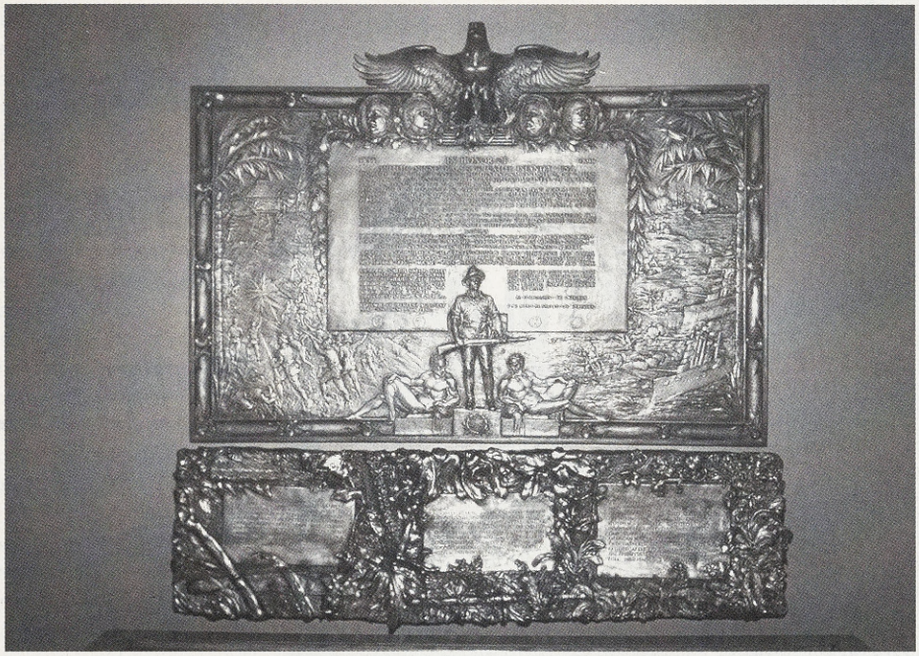

KEN METER

Correction: ***The corrected commemorative plaque of the Spanish-American War, was unveiled in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda on February 4, 2002.***

PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR PLAQUE CORRECTED

WRONG PLAQUE IS HISTORY

By Ken Meter

It's never too late to tell the truth. Philippine Ambassador Albert F. Del Rosario and Minnesota Lt. Governor Mae Schunk unveiled a new plaque in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda last February 4, correcting historical inaccuracies and racist remarks on the Philippine-American War that had been on the Capitol wall for over 50 years.

"Yours was a labor of love and dedication that should motivate Filipinos everywhere," Del Rosario told the Filipino community of Minnesota at the unveiling, the result of an eight-year campaign to correct a memorial to Minnesota volunteer soldiers who fought in the Philippines 100 years ago.

Historian James Loewen, who featured the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota's (PSGM) campaign in his recent book, *Lies Across America*, added: "Your new plaque does the best job I know of, anywhere in America, of telling the truth about this unfortunate undertaking."

The old plaque, cast in bronze and installed in 1948, "contains a number of demeaning remarks and inaccuracies," said Meg Layese, chair of PSGM. Minnesota soldiers who offered to fight against Spanish domination of the Philippines are honored on the plaque. However, after seeing light action in the battle of Manila on August 13, 1898—which ended the Spanish American War—the soldiers were ordered to continue their service in the Philippines for another year. Eventually they engaged in 20 battles against Filipinos—as part of a war that claimed over 600,000 Filipino lives.

Wrong Depiction

The commemorative plaque to the 13th Minnesota Regiment, however, credits the soldiers with fighting to "free the oppressed peoples of the Philippine Islands from the despotic rule of Spain." Further, although it lists all battles fought against Filipinos, the plaque implies these battles were fought against the Spanish, and fails to mention the long American occupation.

"It hurts us Filipinos that our history is being trivialized," Layese stated at the unveiling. "We needed this to be corrected so that we may be true to our history, and therefore be true to who we truly are—in our own eyes and in other people's eyes."

Filipinos also expressed concern about racially insensitive language in the old plaque. At one point, the plaque refers to former Philippine President General Emilio Aguinaldo as "Chief Aguinaldo," implying he was a tribal chief. It also refers to the Filipino national army as "insurgents," as if they were rebels against U.S. authority, rather than an autonomous force struggling for independence who had been pushed aside by U.S. troops.

Lita Malicsi, a leader in the Minnesota community, added, "There is no better time than now to say, 'I am proud, I am truly proud to be a Filipino Minnesotan.' Filipinos have lived in Minnesota since 1907. We have been part of Minnesota's social and economic fabric long before the old plaque was erected. Through those years, many Filipinos have felt that our ancestors' quest for freedom and independence was belittled by language—language such as found on the plaque. All Minnesota children who have visited the Capitol and read the plaque have clearly been misinformed by the presentation on the wall of our very own official state building."

Unfair Representation

The 1948 plaque did not even fairly represent the views of the veterans themselves. As Kyle Ward, historian at Vincennes University pointed out, when the Philippine-American War broke out, the Minnesota soldiers started a letter-writing campaign to their political leaders back home—an act that was itself heroic. "These letters home called for an end to their duty in the Philippines. This new war was one which they had not signed up for and did not want to fight."

In fact, General McC. Reeve, former Colonel of the 13th Minnesota, wrote in 1899, "I deprecate this war, this slaughter of our own boys and of the Filipinos, because it seems to me that we are doing something that is contrary to our principles in the past."

Even Minnesota Governor John Lind, a Spanish-American War veteran, echoed these sentiments in the speech he gave to a public celebration on October 12, 1899, welcoming home the Minnesota soldiers he commanded. "The mission of the American volunteer soldier has come to an end [with this war]. For purposes of conquest he is unfit, for he carries a conscience as well as a gun."

At the unveiling, Del Rosario pointed out that the Filipinos' effort to become independent, and the revelation of the American

Continued on page 65

A tribute to Julita Tamandong McLeod

REMEMBERING A MOTHER, TEACHER, REBEL

By Angela Manese-Lee

Rebel with a Cause: ***Julita McLeod made her home her political headquarters, discussing and debating issues with fellow Filipino American activists.***

When one hears the word "activist," an image of a longhaired, jeans-wearing young hippie often comes to mind. Yet the late Julita Tamandong McLeod certainly did not fit this stereotype. At the height of her political involvement, in the '60s and '70s, McLeod was the mother of three and a prominent Bay Area educator. Although she stood only 5 feet 2 inches, McLeod maximized her suit-clad stature with heels and self-confidence.

With a multitude of parental and professional responsibilities, McLeod often made her home her political headquarters. Husband Rod McLeod, Sr. remembers his house serving as a gathering place for his wife and her fellow activists as they discussed and debated issues, stances and agendas.

When the Marcos regime became a hot topic, McLeod and 15 to 20 other influential Filipino Americans formed the Movement for a Free Philippines in the McLeod home. With the imposition of martial law in 1972, McLeod took her fight outside her home and into the streets. She spoke out against Marcos in San Francisco's Union Square and published her own newsletter criticizing the Marcos regime's brutality.

A rebel with a cause, McLeod used her position within the school system as a launching pad for involvement in local politics. "[The '60s and '70s] was a very politicized era—the so-called ordinary person was involved in politics in those days," says Dan Gonzales, fellow activist and associate professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State University.

While McLeod can hardly be categorized as ordinary, Gonzales attributes some of her activism to the needs of the era. "Prior to 1965, the community was in assimilation-mode," he says. "With assimilation, it was assumed that you would become a citizen and vote. People were very much interested in participation in the political process. Those who knew the history saw themselves as part of a continuum of seeking political power and equality. Julie was certainly one of those," says Gonzales.

Undaunted by differences in race, status, or socioeconomic background, McLeod "advocated for the betterment of all Filipino American people," from fellow teachers to accountants, nurses and farm workers, recalls McLeod, Sr. She lent her influence and support to the causes of minority teachers, student strikers, Marcos' victims and residents of the International Hotel. "She was just extremely dedicated to justice," says Gonzales. "She believed everyone owed it to a society that claimed to be democratic to fight for justice. She was dedicated to making America a better place to live with a mutuality of respect."

Born and raised in the Philippines, McLeod graduated from the University of Santo Tomas with a degree in education and went on to earn teaching credentials at the Philippine Normal School. In the United States, she became one of the first Filipino American school principals and served in that position in three elementary schools in the Bay Area.

"Julie's biggest area of advocacy was in the school district," says friend and former Board of Education Commissioner Dick Cerbatos. One central issue for McLeod was the integration of Filipino teachers into the American school system. "She wanted all Filipino teachers to be mainstream teachers,"

says Cerbatos. At the time, "a majority of Filipino teachers were victims of a high degree of either racial or ethnic exclusion," says Gonzales.

Gonzales recalls that their accents often kept Filipino American schoolteachers from successful careers. With programs including a newcomer welcome center, McLeod tried to make sure that teachers trained in the Philippines could function and succeed in the States.

Filipino bilingual education also became an important issue. The bilingual approach, "used students' primary language as a transitory device towards [speaking] English," explains Gonzales. With the limited resources available for non-English speaking students, conflicts arose within the Filipino American community between those in favor of bilingual, and those in favor of English as a Second Language (ESL), programs.

Activism with Style: ***A mother of three and a prominent Bay Area educator, Julita McLeod (right) did not fit the hippie-like stereotype of an activist. She wore suits and heels while she lobbied for Filipino American causes. In a campaign event of the late San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and his wife.***

Gonzales says McLeod was a "strong proponent in the late '60s for bilingual education." While she and Cerbatos often stood on different sides of the struggle, Cerbatos respected McLeod's contributions.

"She was in the middle of [the bilingual teaching struggle] because she was an outstanding member of the San Francisco school district," Cerbatos says.

The bilingual education issue was not an easy one to solve. Under the surface, members of the Filipino American community were split on issues of dialect and politics. "The split over Marcos and anti-Marcos [sentiment] was always an issue. It was a split along who you knew back in the Philippines, and whether or not they were suffering," says Cerbatos. Within this divided environment, McLeod "had to fight hard to get awareness."

While at times also butting heads with McLeod over ideology, Gonzales acknowledges, "There was an undeniable logic to positions that she took, both political and about leadership." He fondly remembers the support McLeod gave to the Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor (PACE) during their involvement with the San Francisco State University strikes of 1968-1969. Riled by the Vietnam War and issues of racism, students at San Francisco State went on strike demanding better treatment of minority groups and the establishment of a school of ethnic studies. The students were met with media and community criticism. "She extended support even though she didn't always agree with the tactics and, definitely didn't agree with our political philosophy. She identified with the goals," said Gonzales.

In addition to her political involvement, McLeod juggled life as a mother. With husband Rod away from home with the merchant marine, many domestic responsibilities fell to McLeod. "She was a full-time mother at the same time," says McLeod, Sr. "She drove [son] Rod [Jr.] to debates from Sacramento to Burlingame." In order to fit all these interests into her schedule, McLeod maintained 18-hour days and a strong sense of what was important to her.

This strong sense of self has transcended time and even after 23 years, the image one gets of McLeod is one of spirit and confidence "She thought she could compete with anyone and she could; she had a good sense of what she was about," says Cerbatos.

"She was a tough taskmaster," laughs Gonzales. "She always reminded us that each of us is a representative of our community and personally responsible to our community as a whole." ■

Angela Manese-Lee can be reached at alm9q@virginia.edu.

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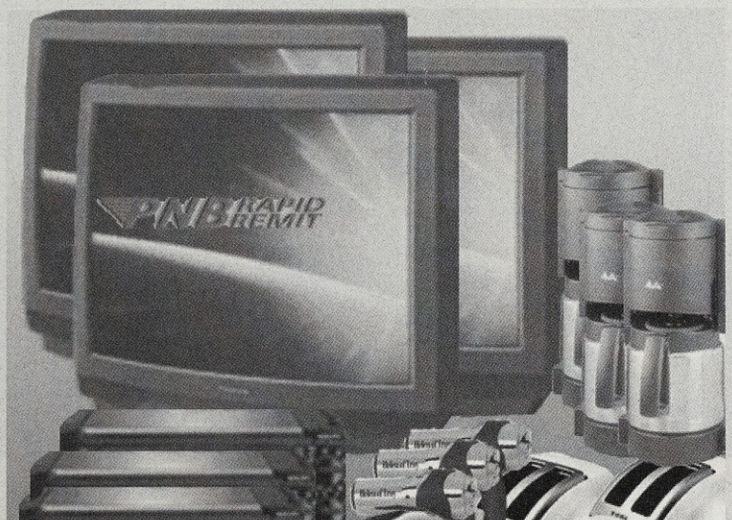

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Reclaiming the I-Hotel

COURTESY OF THE MANILATOWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION AND THE KEARNY STREET WORKSHOP

By Cherie M. Querol Moreno

Sarah Maya De Guzman, 14, lay bow on string, striking a lingering chord both plaintive and passionate. A hush descended as the young violinist played her heart out for her emotionally charged listeners, a few of them former billiard buddies to her grandfather, most of them allies and admirers of her father. Some of them were her peers, who like her, were performers at a reunion last month marking the 25th year since the tenants of the International Hotel were forced out of their home.

As the incoming Lowell High School freshman stroked her violin, poet Al Robles read her ode to the struggle that galvanized the Filipino American community in San Francisco and sired generation after generation of activists throughout the country.

August 4 is seared in the hearts and memories of those who fought but failed to halt the eviction of the elderly and ailing tenants of the International Hotel in 1977. Five years after having served the first eviction notice, the owners demolished the property. To this day the ground on Kearny and Jackson Streets lies vacant. But not for long, city officials vow, giving community advocates reason to rejoice.

"The building disappeared but the spirit did not," an exhilarated Mayor Willie Brown told a rainbow crowd Aug. 4 at the first of weeklong commemoration rites in Chinatown's Portsmouth Square. He praised the "keepers of the heritage, that demonstrated the commitment to building affordable housing" in his city.

Brown was not alone in saluting the "activist-developers and the Church" that crafted a plan that won the approval of all involved in the process. Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly and Aaron Peskin each took their turn on stage, promising support to rebuild the landmark.

Across the street, in a rare Sunday activity, two bulldozers rumbled up and down the old I-Hotel site, clearing away debris and hauling out bricks to be stored at a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. substation for use in the new building. After almost three decades of several false starts, Manilatown Heritage Foundation President Emil De Guzman's optimism seemed justified this time.

A Magical Day

"It's a magical day," De Guzman, Sarah's father, gushed after receiving Brown's proclamation of I-Hotel Day, a complete reversal from the city hall reception a quarter of a century ago, when he met Bill Sorro, Al Robles, Carmen Choy, Dex Abarca and other student activists who tried to save the hotel.

They were the leaders of the resistance to the demolition of the old lodging that was obstructing developers' plans.

"It's encouraging because we feel a sense of affirmation with the ongoing construction and the presence of Mayor Brown that we're sure the new building will go up and in fact be up and open in 2004," De Guzman said dur-

CHERIE QUEROL MORENO

Leading the Way: ***San Francisco community leader gather to commemorate the anniversary of the I-Hotel eviction and to celebrate the eventual construction of affordable housing on the hotel's old site. (From L-R) Manilatown Heritage Foundation President Emil de Guzman, San Francisco Mayor Wille Brown, City Supervisors Aaron Peskin and Tom Ammiano.***

ing the anniversary rites. "We have hit the zenith of this whole history of the fight."

To hear the story of the International Hotel is to journey back into the heart of the lost Manilatown, an area in San Francisco where pioneer Filipino immigrants, called the manongs, lived and soothed the ache of their many unfulfilled longings.

"My dad used to take me there to get a haircut and visit his *compadres* (chums)," said De Guzman, who was born in San Francisco 55 years ago. "It was a community with pool halls, barber shops, a restaurant. The tenement building was all the manongs had, where their friends lived. They had no other place to go."

To many, including some Filipinos, the International Hotel was an eyesore defacing the city that prides itself as the "Paris of the West." To identity-starved young Filipino Americans, it was a temple of their ancestral heritage.

De Guzman, whose father Emilio joined the U.S. Navy and came to this country from Pangasinan with his wife Teodora Acosta and their firstborn Joseph in 1927, lived in the hotel in the middle '70s. A physical education and biological sciences major at the University of California Berkeley, he and other sons and daughters of pioneer immigrants rediscovered themselves in the "manong," swapping stories, playing pool, boosting each other's morale.

His parents first frowned on his sentimental proclivity.

"They were upset with me in the beginning because there was a stigma attached to Manilatown in the old days," De Guzman recalled. "It had a notoriety because of fights breaking out there. Working people didn't think Manilatown was a good place of influence."

Having come halfway around the world to seek a better life, the old sailor couldn't understand why his son preferred the company of the tenants, even challenging lawmakers on their behalf. "Why do you have to do this?" his son remembered his father's frustration. "I sent you to university for this?"

The Right Struggle

The younger De Guzman persisted, telling his parents he owed it to himself to do what he did, "so the manong could live in peace."

"Through the years my mom turned around and became supportive, seeing her peers congratulate me for building a reputation as someone willing to stand up to injustice," said De Guzman, who is also a mediator and investigator with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. "She understood this was the right struggle."

Emilio died in 1976. But Teodora was among thousands who watched the I-Hotel drama unfold on television and newspapers throughout the country and around the world.

By the end of the '60s, new buildings had reconfigured the San Francisco skyline, raising demand for parking space. Low-cost housing became low priority in the redevelopment of the Financial District. Soon all ten blocks of Manilatown were decimated.

The International Hotel was the last one standing, and the Milton Meyer Company ordered its demolition for a parking lot.

Its tenants, emboldened by the support of the students and community activists, responded by organizing the United Filipino Association, the first organization born out of the campaign to preserve the property.

The tenants succeeded for years in stalling the eviction until 1976, when the Four Seas Investment Corp. prevailed over all resistance and prepared to oust all objectors.

The activists, in a symbolic act to stop deputy sheriffs from carrying out their work, linked arms in a human barricade around the building. Though futile, the image showed that "the city that knows how" simply didn't.

"The way the eviction was carried out was totally barbaric," De Guzman said, revisiting the infamous moment. "Pictures showed police officers on horses attacking the

CHERIE QUEROL MORENO

Hole in the Ground: ***For 25 years,the site of the old I-Hotel remained vacant. Activists blocked any development plan that did not prioritize affordable housing.***

crowd, which were extremely damaging to the credibility of the San Francisco government. Nothing like this had been seen before–students being brutalized and beaten."

Unwarranted Rush

The authorities' rush was apparently unwarranted, because the building stood tall for the next two years. The 55 expelled residents sought refuge in other hotels or homes of acquaintances, apart from their extended family.

After demolition, the property lay idle, but not the activists who guarded it as sacred ground, hoping ultimately to reclaim it.

"We consider it a political victory to have kept it a hole in the ground through all the years," De Guzman said. "We wanted to ensure that any plan to develop on it would prioritize affordable housing."

More organizations rose to review the proposed development on the site, including the International Hotel Advisory Committee, which was formed by then Mayor Dianne Feinstein in the early 1980's.

Only in 1994 when the Catholic Church came in did Four Seas agree to sell. The Archdiocese of San Francisco, through the St. Mary's Catholic Center, proposed a partnership with the Kearny Street Housing Corp. to build a facility that would house its displaced elementary school.

With Kearny Street Housing having received a $7.5-million loan from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development and the commitment of a matching amount from the Mayor's Office, signs of vitality began to appear for an I-Hotel rebirth. The Chinatown Community Development Center completed the set of proponents in the $40-million project.

CHERIE QUEROL MORENO

Makeshift Memorial: ***Filipino American activists worked for decades to ensure that the memories of August 4, 1977 would not die. The names of former I-Hotel tenants are posted on a wire fence surrounding the property as a memorial to those who were violently evicted.***

Filipinos at the Table

That same year, the Manilatown Heritage Foundation was formed to "give Filipino representation at the table of the mayor," said De Guzman, who joined former I-Hotel regulars Sorro, now with the Mission Housing Development Corp., Robles, now with the Self Help for the Elderly, and Choy, of the Attorney General's Office in the Department of Justice, on the 15-member board. The foundation's role was to protect the interests and the legacy of the tenants. In 1996, it acquired nonprofit status.

Targeted for completion in the summer of 2004, the new International Hotel will be a 15-story edifice with 104 units of subsidized housing for seniors, the Catholic elementary school, and the Manilatown Center, the facility's proposed centerpiece, which De Guzman calls "the next battleground."

He is mounting a massive campaign to raise a total of $4 million for the Manilatown Center, in a joint drive with two other Filipino-led development projects.

Wiser and mellower but no less fervent, De Guzman sees the simultaneously ongoing projects—the Bayanihan Center at the Delta Hotel and the Filipino Cultural Center— as opportunity to illustrate the best qualities of Filipinos.

"By collaborating we would have a novel and winning strategy as we reach out to our friends in our fund-raising efforts," he said. "This could lead to unification in the Filipino community, with the many merits of the projects donors can get behind."

Ensuring the project's Filipino identity is the involvement of renowned architect Greg Roja as a lead consultant.

COURTESY OF THE MANILATOWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Pool Hall Buddies: ***I-Hotel tenants would socialize in nearby pool halls, where manongs bonded over rounds of pool. It was common for regulars to pass the hat for a manong in need.***

COURTESY OF THE MANILATOWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Inside Story: ***Tenant Eduardo Tacdol (left) poses in his room at the I-Hotel with friend Jose Catubig.***

De Guzman envisions the Manilatown Heritage Center as a "repository, a gallery of articles, artifacts and photos of the I-Hotel struggle."

"It would capture the working class history and the fight for affordable housing in the city where the community has had a long history of displacement," he said.

Cultural activists, too, would have a medium for their talent because the center aims to promote performing arts and showcase the artistry and craftsmanship of Filipinos.

Home at Last

At one of the commemorative events, surviving tenants spoke of their excitement to "come home at last" as they relived the days at the hotel.

When the new building opens, it will exhibit the original 4-by-5-foot "International Hotel" brass plaque reflecting its storied origin.

Rex de Guia, a 30-year-old math teacher at San Francisco's Balboa High School, considers the I-Hotel a shrine. De Guia, who earned a degree in economics and law credits his decision to be an educator to De Guzman and the I-Hotel struggle.

"Being at the site, seeing the pictures and watching the documentaries really got me in such a powerful way that it dictated my life choice," said the Los Angeles-born, parochial-school educated De Guia, volunteer press officer for the 25th anniversary event. "I am making a commitment to work in the community."

He was six when the eviction occurred, and had never heard of the "I-Hotel" until he was a student at UC Berkeley, where he and his peers sponged up everything they could about "our history, the people who came before us." This led them to self-examination: "Where is my place given this history?"

He shares the I-Hotel story with his students so their eyes might be opened earlier than his. And he is not alone.

"A lot of the volunteers at the event, college students younger than I, who were not even born during the eviction, are out there, having learned from Filipino professors who showed them the value of the I-Hotel," he said. "People like Jerald Mutia of the Pilipino American Alliance in Berkeley, Bing Lim of Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor at SF State, Jeff Trinidad and Andrea Tacdol, they're in awe of Bill, Emil and Al, and are so unconditionally giving of their time."

Activism Begins at Home

For some, community activism begins at home, like Sarah and her six-year-old brother Kawayan. "They've grown up going to focus groups, I can't help but think a lot of our idealism rubs off on them," said De Guzman.

Having an activist for parents drives home the point.

Maggie Agarri, 45, married De Guzman in 1986, little knowing his stature in the community. "I was attracted to him because he was sweet," said Maggie, who came to California out of "restlessness" by way of Chicago from the Philippines.

"I felt stifled in Chicago," she said, where "activism was a hushed situation."

In San Francisco, she was caught up in the opposition to the Marcos dictatorship and eventually crossed paths with De Guzman. Their marriage coincided with the fall of the dictatorship.

Until she met De Guzman, she was clueless about the I-Hotel. Today she's as much a fixture in "keeping its story alive," as her husband, her children, and the many generations of Filipino Americans touched by the plight of the pioneers.

"Because we're orbiting around Emil's consciousness," she said, "involvement comes naturally" to the family. "Every year the children are part of the I-Hotel anniversary commemoration. This time Sarah wrote a poem reflecting her understanding of its history and the emotions, and so profoundly too."

Emilio De Guzman would have been so proud. ■

Cherie M. Querol Moreno is a longtime journalist and women's rights activist.

BILL CARPENTER

Keeping the Story Alive: ***The violent eviction of elderly Filipino immigrants from the I-Hotel 25 years ago left a lasting imprint on Sarah de Guzman, a third-generation Filipino American whose art is infused with social consciousness.***

By Ben Pimentel

Martial Law Babies

Thirty years ago, on September 21, 1972, Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines.

In the United States, the generation born in the 1960s and 1970s are referred to as Generation X. In the Philippines, we were called the martial law babies.

I was eight years old living in Quezon City when Marcos, the only Philippine president to be re-elected, decided that he wanted to keep the job permanently. He padlocked Philippine Congress, jailed opposition leaders, including Senators Benigno Aquino Jr. and Jose Diokno, and shut down newspapers and campuses.

I still remember the day martial law was imposed. I was thrilled. I didn't have to go to school because classes had been suspended. And there was nothing but cartoons on television—except for intermittent announcements about the new order.

In fact, many Filipinos welcomed the new order.

It put an end to the turmoil that culminated in the First Quarter Storm when thousands of students rebelled against Marcos. "*Sa Ikauunlad ng Lipunan, Disiplina ang Kailangan*" (For Our Society to Develop, We Need Discipline) went the martial refrain. And for a time, discipline appeared to rule the day. People lined up to board a jeepney instead of rushing like mad bulls. Street cleaners in their red and yellow uniforms were seen all over the capital sweeping the streets.

In school, I learned to sing the martial law songs. "*Mabuhay, mabuhay ang Pilipino*" (Long live, long live the Filipino) went one tune.

Suddenly, the Philippines was the center of the world. The most beautiful women in the world came to the Pearl of the Orient for the 1974 Miss Universe Pageant.

Then there was Muhammad Ali, my childhood idol and that of many thousands of Filipinos, in my hometown to slug it out with Joe Frazier in the Thrilla in Manila. Marcos, the nation's leader himself, climbed into the ring to congratulate the great champion after his victory.

Indeed, what more could Filipinos ask for. Martial law brought peace and order, discipline, even glamour.

But as my generation and the rest of the country eventually discovered, it was all a show. Marcos, with his wife Imelda, and their cronies, were among the most cunning con artists the country had ever seen.

As Filipinos ogled Miss Aruba and Miss Spain during the Miss Universe contest, political dissidents were being beaten, electrocuted and subjected to water cure at military camps or safe houses.

As we were cheering The Greatest as he pummeled Smokin Joe in one of the most exciting heavyweight fights in history, factory workers were being harassed and peasant farmers driven off their land by the regime's goons.

After the collapse of the regime, the politicos of the old order who perpetuated the corrupt, unjust social system that allowed Marcos to grab power in the first place, returned to center stage.

And long before September 11 became shorthand for terrorism and tragedy, it had already acquired the same meaning to Filipinos. September 11 was Marcos' birthday. And every year, we had no choice but be reminded of it in Hitlerian propaganda about the country's Fascist leader.

Countless newspaper articles and opinion pieces have been written about the enduring legacy of the Marcos regime, the plunder, the killings and the destruction of the country's democratic traditions. Surviving Marcos taught me and other martial law babies one important lesson: a total disdain for bullies.

By the time I was in college, my life was being defined by the fight against Marcos. By the mid-1980s, it was clear that after years of trying to mold the martial law babies into his faithful followers, the dictator had failed.

Among the most prominent leaders of that time was Lean Alejandro, another martial law baby who came to symbolize our generation's rebellion against dictatorial rule.

Fortunately, the Philippines' Marcosian nightmare actually had a happy ending. And his fall also underscored the power of a people united.

But there have been painful lessons as well.

After the collapse of the regime, the politicos of the old order who perpetuated the corrupt, unjust social system that allowed Marcos to grab power in the first place, returned to center stage.

The *trapos*—short for traditional politicians and Tagalog for cleaning rags were back. And we learned quickly enough that although Marcos was gone, the roots of Philippine society's ills were still there.

More than a year after Marcos fell, on Sept. 19, 1987, Lean Alejandro was shot dead in front of his office, near our house in Quezon City. I rushed to the scene minutes after the attack and found his blood splattered on the driveway. I then went to the office of human rights organization's a few blocks away where his colleagues had retreated. I joined them in grieving for our loss, for our generation's beloved martyr.

Lean's killers have never been identified although many suspect they were either linked to right-wing military groups or the trapos.

Two years later, Marcos died while in exile in Hawaii. Three decades after his bold grab for power, the country is still struggling to find the workable path to progress and broader-based democracy. The trapos are still around, the economy is in bad shape, and there's still a lot of unrest among the poor.

But the name of the website set up by the foundation named after anti-Marcos activist Gaston Ortigas and dedicated to keeping the memory of our martial law experience alive summed up the view of many Filipinos who lived through the nightmare: Never Again. ■

Ben Pimentel is a writer for the San Francisco Chronicle *and a recipient of the 2001* Filipinas Magazine *Achievement Award for Communication. He can be reached at bpimen@aol.com.*

BILL CARPENTER

By Samantha Anne La'O

The Rules

With my knees shaking and my mouth dry, I delivered a speech this summer at the Filipino American Youth Leadership Conference dedicated to first and second-generation Filipinos at UC Davis. Based on requests from parents to have a copy of my speech, I decided to deliver it again here with you guys. This is called "7 effective ways to survive a Filipino household."

1. Be Patient

Kids: Before you go out, make sure to give out all the information to your parents. This includes home phone numbers, cell numbers, addresses, blood types and the first and last name of all of the friends that you are hanging out with. Don't turn off your cell phone because your parents will jump to the wrong conclusion and end up clogging your voicemail to ask what you are doing and when you are coming home.

Parents: Please trust your kids and don't call every five seconds to check if they are all right. Most times your kids are not calling because they are having too much fun and they will call if they need you.

2. Know When to Close Your Mouth (a.k.a. Listen)

Kids: When it comes to explaining your side of the story, say what you need to say and then listen to what they have to say. If it seems unfair, but whatever you do—don't, I repeat DON'T yell, because that will land you in your room crying without privileges to anything for the next few weeks.

Parents: If you see that your kids are trying to express themselves, let them. If they are crossing the line, warn them. Do not punish them right away. Punishment will end in resentment which turns to tension and creates another major problem that could have been avoided a long time ago.

3. Know When to Open Your Mouth (a.k.a. Communication Is Bliss)

Kids: I know that all you want to do sometimes is to go to your room and call your friends as soon as you get home and talk about what you did just five minutes ago from leaving each other. I know that boys tend to go to their rooms, surf the Internet, play their guitars and come out just to eat, watch TV and sleep until the next day. I urge you, say something to your parents. Give them anything. A grunt, a nod, just an indication that they know that you are alive.

Parents: Accept that when you ask them how their day was they might just give you a one word reply like "yeah," "good" or "whatever." This is no disrespect to you. It is just their special way of communicating with you.

Love each other for as long as you can because in the end, it would mean more to you than you can ever imagine.

4. The Less Attitude, the More Freedom

Kids: I know. Attitude is just ingrained in our nature. However, in my own experiences, the fewer the times that I rolled my eyes at an unfair decision, the more I actually got to receive a "Get Out of House" free card from my parents. Believe me, this comes in handy when you are trying to avoid karaoke night at Auntie Maria's, while all of your other friends are out eating pizza.

Parents: Avoid any sentences that start off with "I am your mother, that's why" or the famous "When I was young...." The fewer attitude-infested catch phrases you use, the better. Your kids will respect you more if you talk to them on their level. Try not to make them feel as if one side has to win and one side has to lose. In the long run, you will end up with two sides that feel terrible. Trust me, this is not the kind of tension that blows off the next day, or the next day after that.

5. Negotiate, Negotiate and When All Else Fails—Negotiate again

Kids: Think like a negotiator. Have all of your reasons and explanations set up. Tell them about your straight A's, how you pick up your little brother at school every day and that you never complain when they ask you every day how to turn on the computer.

Parents: Be reasonable with your parental powers. Let them go out with their friends as long as you are informed and they have agreed to your terms.

6. Respect Your Culture

Kids: Don't buy into the elitism that is created in our Filipino American culture. Respecting your culture means accepting the totality of it. The initials "FOB" (fresh off the boat) can be a joke to you, but it might not be a joke to another. When used in a derogatory way like "She's an FOB or he or she looks like an FOB" then you are trying to classify yourself above another person. If you claim to be a proud Filipino, then don't denigrate others who seem different to you. No matter if we are Filipino, Filipino American, second generation, first or third—we all have to eradicate this elitism. In reality, if you think that a person looks like an FOB (i.e. looks more native, darker skin, flatter nose, short), than you are labeling a part of yourself. Don't feed into the hypocrisy.

Parents: Understand that this is a combined culture—a Filipino American culture. This means that you have to respect your kid's tenacity. They are growing up in an environment where they have to stand up for themselves and voice out their opinions.

7. Love Long and Prosper

Kids and Parents: Trust me, I have been through all the stages. I had the "you are talking too much on the phone" stage in junior high which escalated to the "you are going out too much" stage in high school and eventually to the "you don't call me anymore" stage in college and beyond. Love each other for as long as you can because in the end, it would mean more to you than you can ever imagine. ■

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By Barbara C. Gonzalez

Witches of Light and Dark

What animal did this? I wondered as I contemplated the holes in my country home's screens. Ana, my caretaker, stood by sullenly controlling herself. She knew I would ignore what she was thinking. "Patch it. Let's see what happens," I said, then left for the city where early one morning an agitated Ana called. "Frames in your bedroom knocked over, bottles broken, funny marks on all soap bars," she reported. I rushed home. "I think it's the lizard we've been seeing in the garden," Ana said breathlessly, "and you cannot imagine what bad luck lizards bring. The evil spirits they harbor turn money into stone." I get her drift. Something malevolent and scary is happening here. I don't know what to do so I cast her my sharpest stop-you're-getting-hysterical look. "I've seen the lizard. It's a *bayawak* (monitor lizard). It has eaten all the birds, snaps off their heads," she continues, reminding me of childhood stories that made me so fearful I would tightly shut my eyes and thus fall asleep.

I develop a theory. "The lizard probably climbs up this tree, enters the house through that gap between roof and wall then has the run of the house when I'm in the city. Scare it away with noise and activity." She looks at me skeptically.

When I return she meets me with panicked eyes, "Two more holes in the upstairs screens. Lizards or rats don't climb that high. It has to be *aswang* (a Filipino folklore monster that takes the shapes of animals to attack humans). Babes, the village healer, says she's casting a spell to be rid of it tonight. Maybe you shouldn't sleep here. It would be better."

"I called the exterminator," I said. If looks could tell, if looks could fell, I would have been told off and felled by the one she threw me.

It seemed the whole village slept while I sipped scotch hoping for slumber but nothing happened. The air was thick with stillness and something I didn't want to name—my own fear of the aswang—building in my breast. I went to the window, noticed the full moon, party time for witches and hobgoblins. A firefly alit on the windowsill blinking beautifully at me. Are you a fairy come to save me? Might you be Babes the Healer? Maybe we should change your name. Babes is not a credible name for a healer.

Finally scotch brings sleep interrupted by a bang—outside or in my head? Whooping sounds disappear into the distance accompanied by another strange sound—a flapping of wings? I must be dreaming. Maybe the village teenagers are fooling around again. Maybe the aswang has flown in a mad flutter of wings just like the books I read to my grandchildren say. Again I awaken with a start. The electricity has died but everything is bright by the full moon's light and the air is suffocatingly thick and heavy with my foreboding.

The electricity has died but everything is bright by the full moon's light and the air is suffocatingly thick and heavy with my foreboding.

"I slept like a baby," Ana says at breakfast. "You?"

"No," I reply curtly. She's gloating. We suspect each other of witchcraft. To her I'm a bright witch, magical but harsh, too often right, she grudgingly concedes. To me she is dark only because she refuses logic's light, prefers the mysterious world of lore and incantations where critters are always malevolence in disguise. When a picture I painted fell, she called me to ask if I was all right. Maybe I had fallen, had an accident. Maybe I had died. Her scheme of things is so much more romantic than mine.

I spent another tense night waiting for an aswang to bore holes in my screen, leaving the lights on so I could witness it when it happened, being unable to sleep. Finally Danny the Exterminator appeared. I showed him the holes. "Ratus ratus!" he exclaimed, then turned to lecture me (as Ana hovering pretended not to hear) on the mating, breeding, scavenging and homing habits of these creatures among our garden rocks. Yes, yes, lizards too but the culprits for the holes in my screen without a doubt were ratus ratus, the field kind, the big kind, the wild monstrous ones, Danny said.

Ana is neither happy nor convinced but she forces smiles. I can be right. I pay the bills, an atrocious one for this exterminator. She is relieved that he calls them, "Ratus ratus." She had been praying that Danny would not say *daga,* the local word for "rat" because then they would be insulted and wreak havoc in the house, make more holes, get me hysterical, drive her crazy again. Ana still believes the aswang, not ratus ratus, damaged the screens. A part of me—the witch part—wishes she were right. ■

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By Cecilia Manguerra Brainard

Yolanda's Journey

During a recent visit to Rome I was surprised at the large number of Filipinos in St. Peter's Basilica. In churches and metros, there were Filipinos; and at night, clusters of Filipinas sat around the Piazza Navona, chattering away in Tagalog.

I wondered where these Filipinos came from in the Philippines, why they immigrated to Italy, and how they were adjusting there.

As my husband and I continued our journey through Italy, I observed Filipinos at a distance. In a park in Florence around 30 of them gathered for a picnic. They were in their thirties. Some men clustered around a table, gambling. I saw some infants and young children. Only one woman among them smiled a greeting at me; the rest ignored me. And so I simply smiled at the woman and did not talk to them. My curiosity about them was left to grow.

In Stressa, however, I had the chance to talk to a Filipina. While waiting for a train for Milan, she approached me and introduced herself. Her name was Yolanda, she said, and she took care of a wealthy Italian woman who had cancer. It was Friday, and Yolanda was off for the weekend. She was on her way to Milan to join some relatives and friends.

Petite and wiry, Yolanda looked ten years younger than her 53 years. She was adamant about guiding us from Stressa to Milan, stamping our train tickets for us, and telling us where to sit, and when to get off. She was starting to annoy my husband, but I saw an opportunity to interview a Filipina in Italy. She didn't mind my questions at all; in fact she thoroughly enjoyed telling me her story.

When she was 33 years old, in Manila, her husband, who was 31, died of a heart attack. She tried supporting her four children by selling bananas and through other small business ventures. She was so desperate that she considered becoming a singer/performer in Japan—a *Japayuki*. Her mother and other relatives discouraged her from doing so. An agent suggested that Yolanda work as a domestic in Saudi Arabia. She left Manila for Saudi on December 23. She said she was still nursing her youngest child, and her breasts were full of milk. She wept all the way to Saudi. Her employers met her at the airport and brought her to their house. Her job was to take care of their children. Yolanda said, on Christmas day, she continued to cry, but even then, she added,"My hands were full of grapes."

Her employers were kind, and she even had holidays in the Philippines. She was in Manila when the Persian Gulf War broke out, and she decided not to return to Saudi. "The pay was not that good anyway," Yolanda added.

She still had to figure out how to support her children, who were being raised by her mother. An agent suggested going to Italy. Apparently, the agency could falsify an Italian visa. She was drilled well, Yolanda said. She had to know what the airports looked like, where to go, what to do. She had to dress well, to pass for a tourist.

Italy has the highest concentration of Filipino immigrants in the whole of Europe.

In France, the immigration officials questioned and delayed her. She insisted they had no right to question her since her final destination was Geneva, Switzerland. They finally released her.

By the time she was released, Yolanda had missed her flight to Geneva and had to take the plane to Zurich. She was terrified, she said, because the agent's contact was meeting her in Geneva.

In Zurich, she didn't know what to do. She approached a teenage boy whose mother was Japanese and whose father was Caucasian, figuring he spoke English. She asked him to call a telephone number for her, which the boy did. The boy said, "You look hungry, come eat with us."

She continued her journey in this way, asking for help from Filipinos or people who spoke English. Finally, after a long and frightening journey, she made it to Italy. Her journey was not as bad as others who had to go to Germany (I think she meant Austria) and swim across a river. There was a group of Filipinos, she related, who swam the river, but one had a heart attack, and they had to leave her.

Yolanda considered herself lucky because ten months after her arrival, the Italian government offered amnesty, so now her papers are legal. Her children in Manila have all gone to school. The youngest is in art school—"a useless major," commented Yolanda. And her life seems full in Italy. Aside from taking care of her employer, she has sideline work selling insurance, watches, and so on.

In Milan, Yolanda wanted to take us to the Duomo, to make sure we didn't get lost. I understood that she was repaying the kindness that others had given her during her journey to Italy.

We'll be all right, I said. And so at the train station, we said goodbye. I have a scrap of paper with Yolanda's name and cell phone number; but she and I knew we will never see each other again.

An Italian student, Caterina Elisabetta Pieri, who is translating my first novel, later told me there are approximately 200,000 Filipinos in Italy, and only around 85,000 are legal. They rank fourth highest in the immigrant population after the Moroccans, North Americans and Tunisians. Italy has the highest concentration of Filipino immigrants in the whole of Europe. They are concentrated in the cities and outlying areas of Rome, Bologna, Florence, Milan and Naples. In fact, Caterina's Italian mother, Annarosa Keber, served as honorary consul general for the North-Occidental regions of Italy for 12 years. Many times, Caterina translated for the Filipino immigrants. "Since I was 16, I've been listening to the complicated, sometimes sad or adventurous stories of the Filipinos in Italy," said Caterina.

And indeed these Filipinos in Italy have many tales to tell. ■

Cecilia Manguerra Brainard is the author of two novels, Magdalena *(Plain View Press) and* When the Rainbow Goddess Wept *(University of Michigan Press). She has a website at www.ceciliabrainard.com.*

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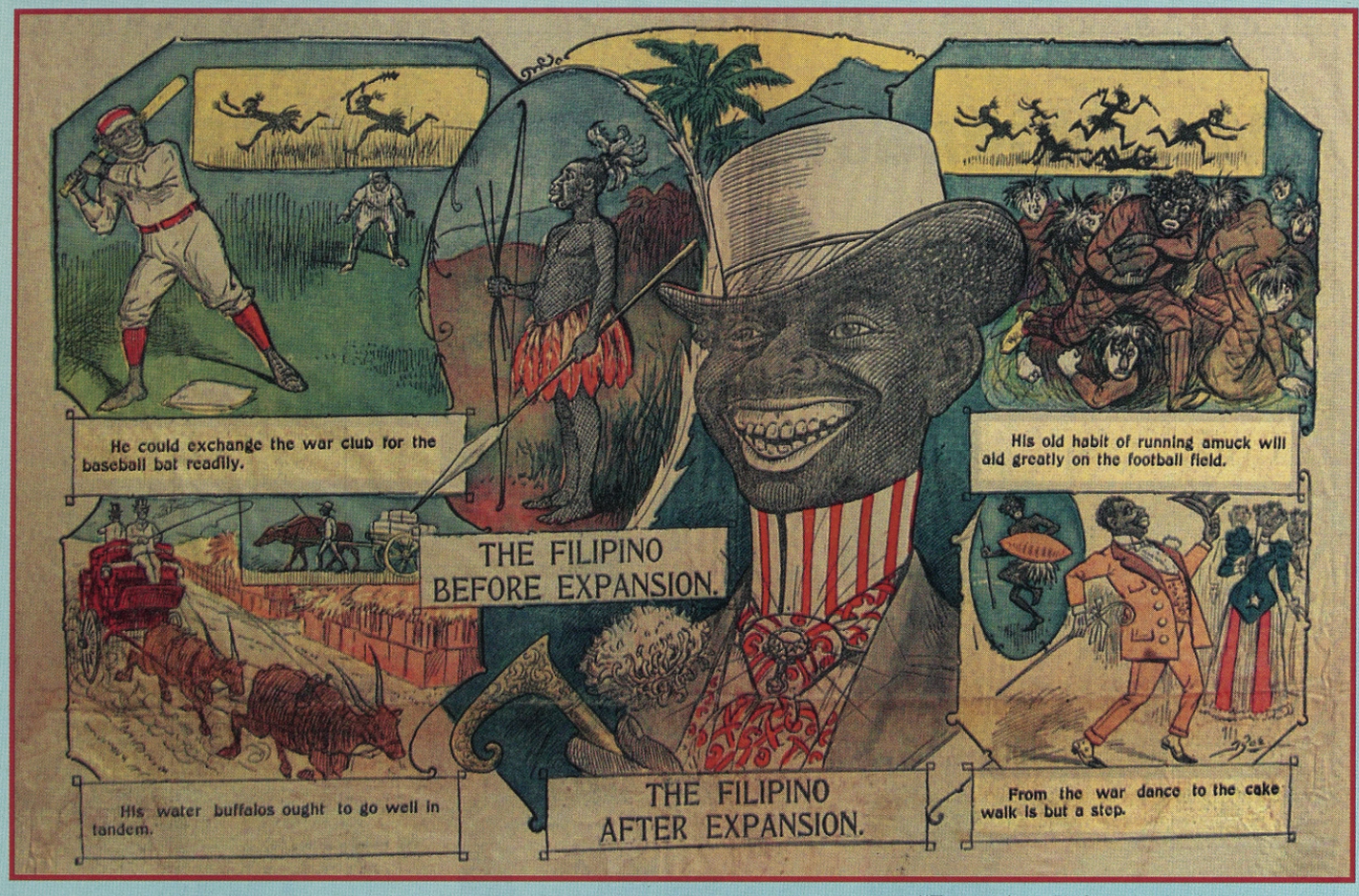
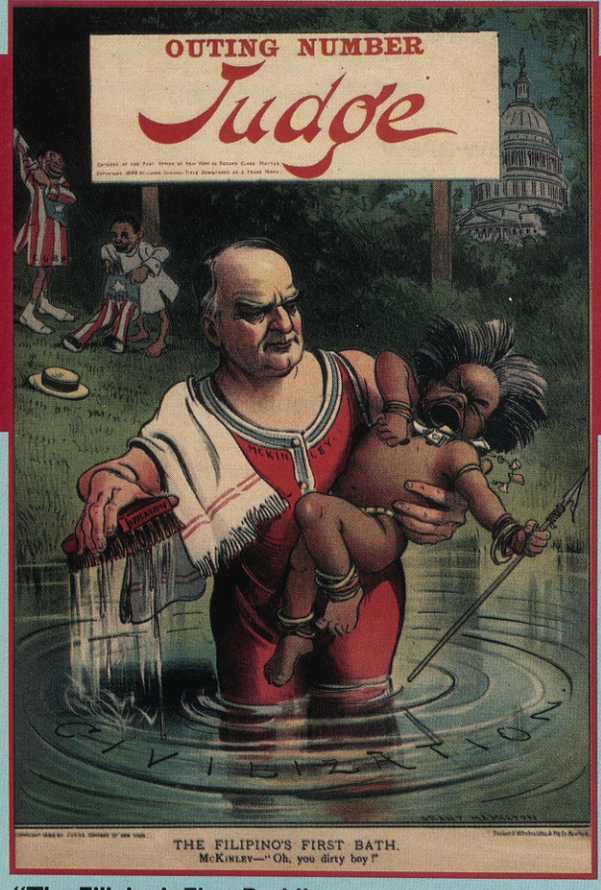


"Expansion, Before and After"
-The Boston Sunday Globe, March 5, 1899



"The Filipino's First Bath"
-Puck and Judge, June 10, 1899

IMAGES *from an* UGLY PAST

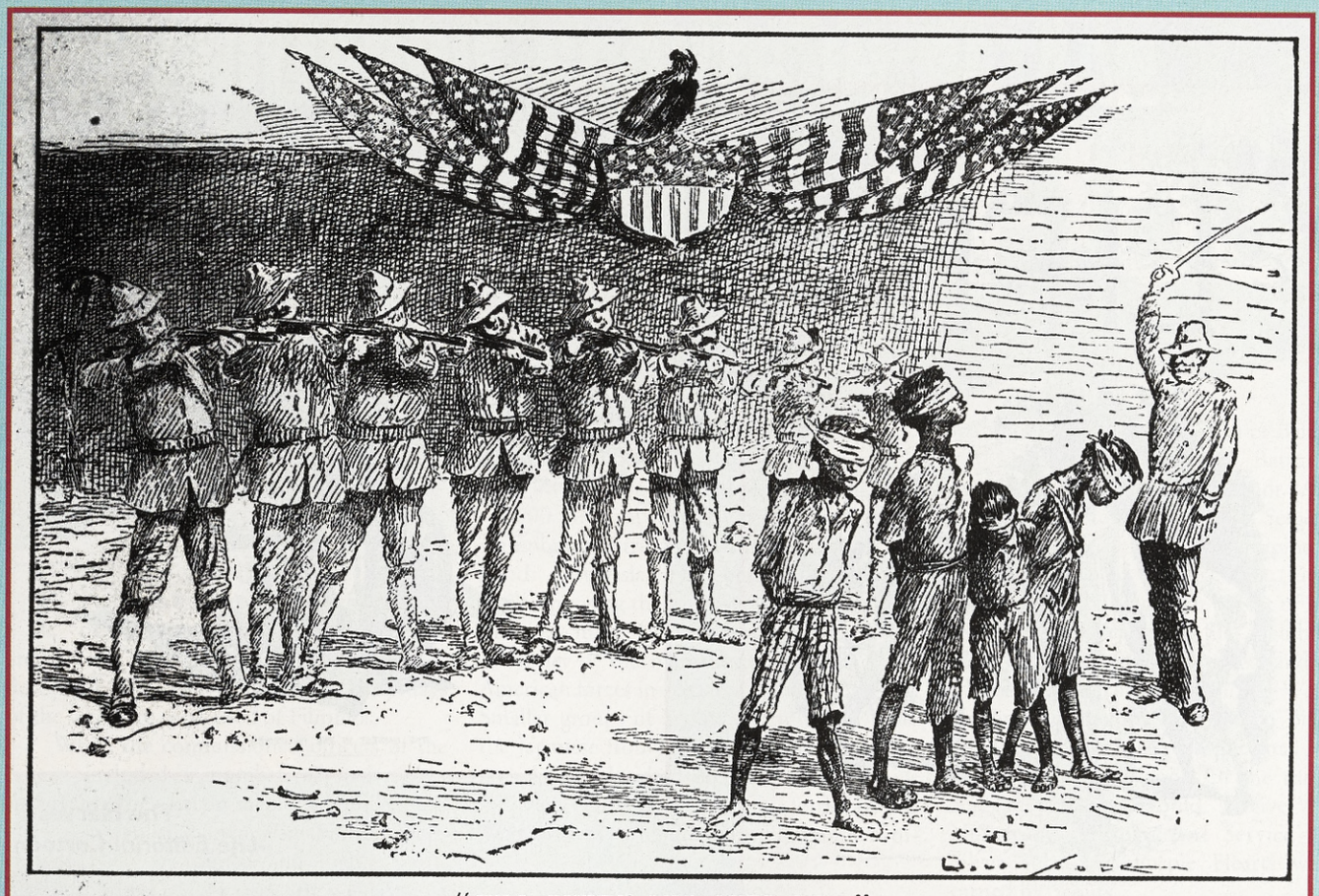
By Benjamin Pimentel

In 1989, Abe Ignacio started collecting old drawings from late 19th Century American magazines and newspapers. He said his new hobby helped him heal—though the images from his collection are mean and arrogant.

One depicts the Filipino as a stupid savage who was transformed under American rule into a civilized person playing baseball and wearing Western clothes.

Another one shows President William McKinley scrubbing a Filipino child saying, "Oh, you dirty boy!" The caption reads: "The Filipino's First Bath."

The illustrations from such publications as *Puck and Judge* magazine and the *Boston Sunday Globe* recall a time when Filipinos were portrayed in mainstream U.S. media as barbarians to be civilized by the



"KILL EVERY ONE OVER TEN."
Criminals because they were born ten years before we took the Philippines.

"Kill Every One Over Ten"
-New York Evening Journal

United States.

"It's revisiting a terrible period that most historians have ignored," said Ignacio, a 45-year-old Filipino American who works as a Federal Express driver. "It's important to show that there was a very ugly side to America's rise as a world power."

The exhibit, titled "Colored: Black n' White," held at Pusod, a community arts and environmental center in Berkeley, California, includes drawings, editorial cartoons, photos and news clips from prominent magazines and newspapers that covered the U.S. annexation of the Philippines in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was put together by Ignacio, his wife, Helen Toribio, who is a college instructor, and Jorge Emmanuel, an environmental scientist.

The exhibit recalls a painful time for many Filipinos. Shortly after Philippine revolutionaries declared its independence from Spain in 1898, the archipelago was unjustly ceded to the United States for $20 million.

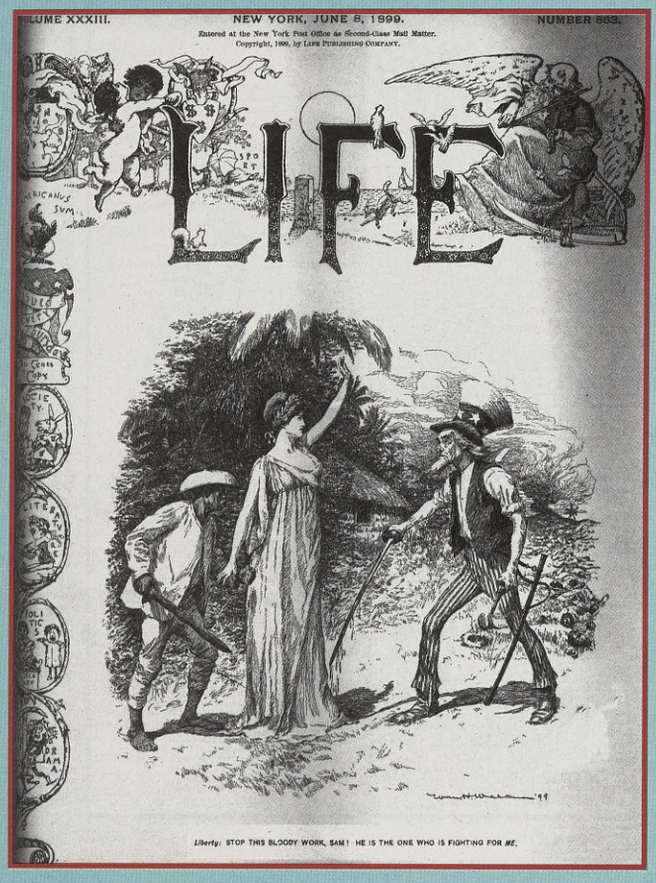
The Filipinos rejected American rule, and the United States responded by waging a bloody war of conquest that killed about 600,000 people, mostly Filipino civilians.

To justify the use of force in the Philippines, many pro-annexation politicians, writers and artists portrayed the Filipinos as primitive, childlike and incapable of governing themselves.

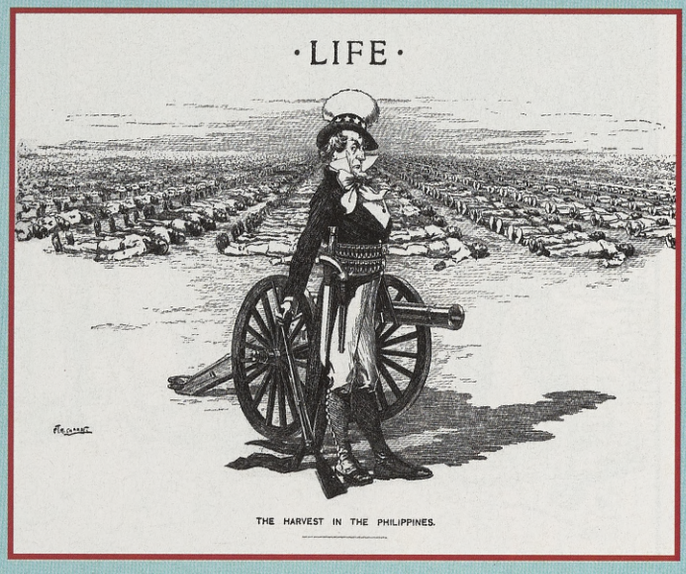
Ignacio, who has 400 images in his collection, found them at small bookstores and antique shops and later, on Ebay where he was shocked to find the drawing of McKinley giving a Filipino child a bath.

"When I saw it, my eyes popped out," he said. "Oh, my God I gotta have this. It was an important piece. It captures the policies of the time."

"Hit Him Hard!"
-Puck and Judge, February 4, 1899



"Stop This Bloody Work, Sam!"
-Life Cover, June 8, 1899



"The Harvest"
-Life Editorial Cartoon

The drawings Ignacio collected often showed Filipinos as wailing savage babies or misbehaving school children while the United States was portrayed as the benevolent Uncle Sam trying to teach them manners.

His collection shows how Americans viewed Filipinos in the early part of the 20th century and what Filipinos who came to the United States during that period had to endure.

"When the Filipinos came here in the 1920s, you realize what they were up against in terms of racial sensibilities," Ignacio said. "It gave you an accurate gauge of what people were going to think about Filipinos when they saw them up close."

For Ignacio, collecting the racist images has also been a very personal journey. Born in San Diego, he endured insults as a child because of his ethnicity.

"It was hard being a Filipino," he said. "You are looked down on in school. People make fun of you. You actually begin not to like yourself as a Filipino."

His new hobby helped him understand the history of American racism, he said. "You can either deny it or wallow in self-hatred—or try to fight it and become a better person and make other people realize that we are all human beings."

Ignacio decided to fight for something better. He, his wife and Emmanuel are all veterans of the anti-Marcos movement in the United States. They remain active in a variety of causes involving Filipino Americans and the Philippines.

Remembering America's racist past is important, Ignacio says, because in many ways the United States is still wrestling with this ugly legacy. "One can look at the case of Joseph Ileto," he said, referring to the Filipino American postal worker who was shot in Los Angeles by a white supremacist. "A man is shot in cold blood because he is Filipino. It's still there. This is not the color-blind society that the Republicans are claiming." ■

Ben Pimentel can be reached at bpimen@aol.com.

THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS IN BATAAN

THEIR FINEST HOUR

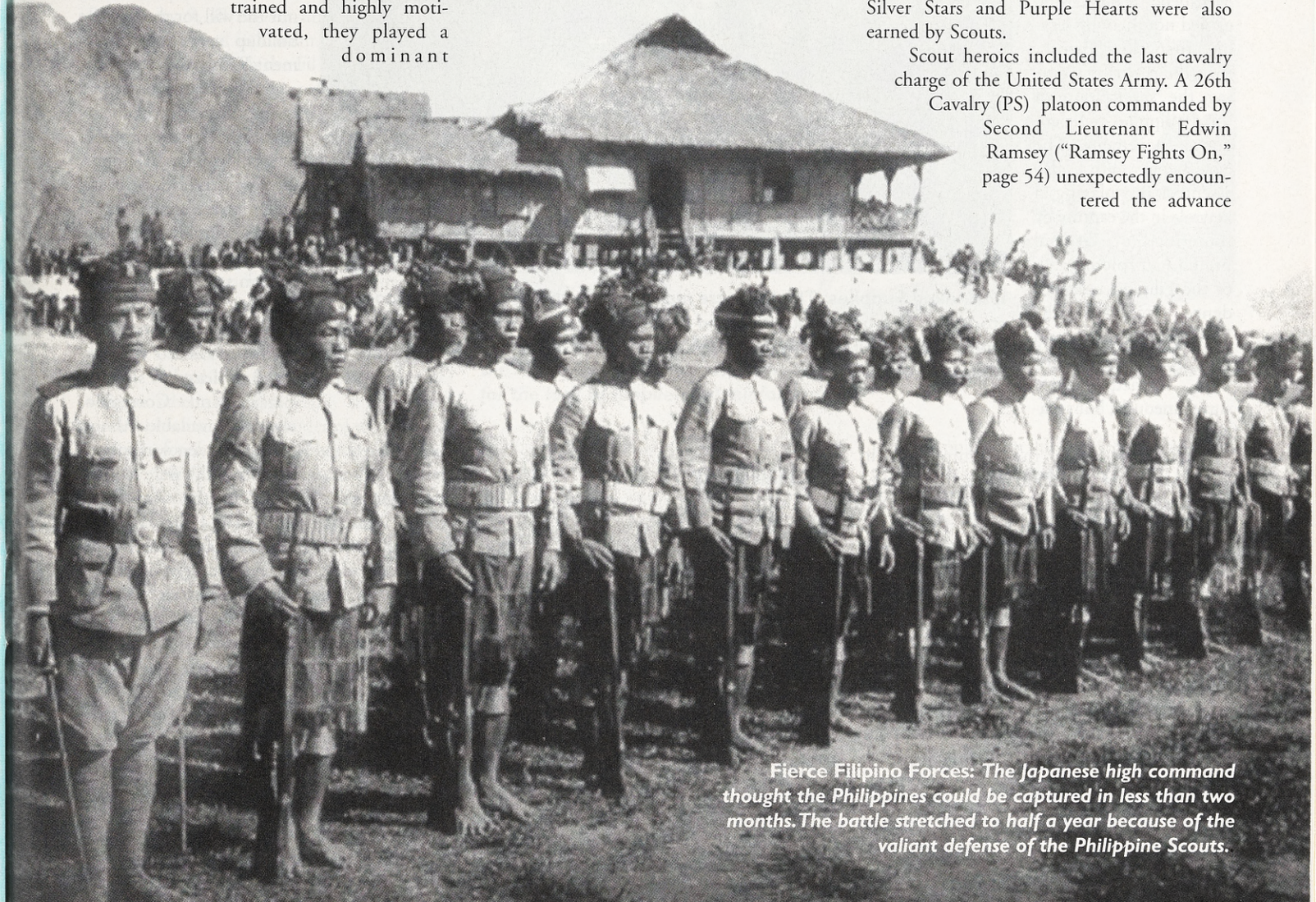
By J. Michael Houlahan

The heroic role played by the Philippine Scouts (PS) in the defense of Bataan is one of the best kept secrets of the World War II. In fact, the most decorated U.S. Army units in the early days of the war were composed of Filipinos.

While the commissioned officers of the Scouts included a number of native-born Americans, the noncommissioned officers and enlisted men were Pinoys. Well-trained and highly motivated, they played a dominant role in blunting the initial attacks of over 43,000 fanatical Japanese troops, buoyed by an unbroken string of victories in China and South East Asia. This heroic stand began while opposing the Lingayen Gulf landings in mid-December 1941 and lasted beyond the surrender of the main body of Filipino and American forces in Bataan in early April 1942. Smaller groups of Scouts continued to resist the Japanese from Corregidor and the southern islands. Hundreds joined guerrilla groups following Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright's surrender of his Philippine command one month after the fall of Bataan.

During the defense of Bataan, three Scouts earned Medals of Honor, America's highest award for combat valor. Sergeant Jose Calugas, Sr. became the first Filipino ever to earn a Medal of Honor. First Lieutenant Alexander R. Nininger, an officer of the 57th Infantry (PS) became the first member of his West Point class to die in combat and the first Medal of Honor recipient during World War II. First Lieutenant Willibald C. Bianchi of the 45th Infantry (PS) was the final Scout to earn a Medal of Honor. Of the three, only Sergeant Calugas would survive the war. Numerous Distinguished Service Crosses, Silver Stars and Purple Hearts were also earned by Scouts.

Scout heroics included the last cavalry charge of the United States Army. A 26th Cavalry (PS) platoon commanded by Second Lieutenant Edwin Ramsey ("Ramsey Fights On," page 54) unexpectedly encountered the advance



Fierce Filipino Forces: ***The Japanese high command thought the Philippines could be captured in less than two months. The battle stretched to half a year because of the valiant defense of the Philippine Scouts.***

guard of a large Japanese infantry force at Morong on the Bataan Peninsula. Deciding his best hope was an immediate attack, Ramsey launched a wild cavalry charge, scattering the dumfounded Japanese. A few weeks later the 26th Cavalry would be forced to eat their horses to stave off starvation. Ramsey escaped Bataan and gained fame leading a large guerrilla force against the Japanese.

Scout Origins

Organized in 1901 and recruited from the indigenous population, the Philippine Scouts initially were used to suppress Muslim rebels in the southern islands and garrison the Philippines when most U.S. troops were diverted to Europe during World War I. In gratitude for this, the U.S. Congress authorized induction of the 6,000 Scouts into the regular U. S. Army.

A common misperception is that the Philippine Scouts are descended from the Macabebe Scouts, who gained notoriety by serving first the Spanish, then the Americans during the suppression of the Philippine independence movement. The Macabebes are also resented for playing a key role in the capture by subterfuge of General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the Filipino independence forces. The Philippine Scouts and the Macabebe Scouts were formed almost simultaneously, but separately.

In 1935, when the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines was established, the Scouts played a major role in training recruits and furnished many of the most able Filipino officers in the newly authorized Philippine Army.

Defensive Preparations

Unfortunately the Philippine Army was far from completely trained and deployed when the Japanese attacked in December 1941. Furthermore, much needed supplies and reinforcements were still months from delivery. One of the very few bright spots in this gloomy scenario was the well-trained Philippine Scouts, who had almost doubled in manpower in the year prior to the war, now numbering nearly 12,000 officers and men.

The 120,000-man Philippine Army consisted mainly of reservists whose mobilization took place over a three-month period up to the outbreak of hostilities. Mostly undertrained and poorly-equipped, their fighting ability was suspect. Many of the conscripts went into combat never previously having fired their weapon. Furthermore, many spoke no Tagalog, the language of most of their Filipino officers. The results were sadly predictable when these raw recruits were thrown into battle against better-trained and equipped Japanese.

MacArthur's prospects were further compromised by detailed intelligence on Fil-Am defenses supplied by numerous spies hidden among the 30,000 Japanese residing in the Philippines.

Dwindling Supplies: ***The Japanese managed to capture the Fil-Am troops' stockpiles of food, ammunition and medicine, leaving the retreating defenders weak and undernourished. This accounted for the high death rate during the Bataan Death March.***

War Plan Orange

During the early days of the Japanese onslaught, most of the elite troops of the Philippine Division were held in reserve while the Philippine Army units were being mauled on the invasion beaches. On Christmas day it became clear to General MacArthur that allied beach defenses were unable to hold, and he fell back on War Plan Orange.

War Plan Orange required Fil-Am forces to retreat to Bataan and Corregidor, then withstand a lengthy siege. A six-month stockpile of food, ammunition and other necessities would tide over garrisons of 40,000 and 10,000 until the American Pacific Fleet could mount a rescue. (After the near total destruction of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, realists in Washington knew that the garrison might have to hold out as long as two or three years.) War Plan Orange planned for a garrison of 50,000. As the siege began, more than 90,000 Fil-Am troops and 26,000 civilians were trapped on Bataan and Corregidor.

From the beginning, MacArthur viewed War Plan Orange as defeatist. Because of this he successfully pressured the War Department to approve Rainbow 5, an alternative plan based on defending the beaches. Developed in partnership with the British, this plan theoretically would have allowed MacArthur to defend all of the Philippines and to blockade the South China Sea. Such an action would thwart Japanese plans to expand their empire to include the Malay Peninsula [now Singapore and Malaysia] and the Netherlands Indies [now Indonesia.] According to some historians, this sealed the fate of the Philippines, which Japan had planned to bypass in a conquest aimed at seizing South East Asian oil fields and rubber plantations. Unfortunately, there was neither the time nor the will for the massive buildup needed to implement Rainbow 5.

War Plan Orange had been compromised by MacArthur's forward placement of supplies in support of his misguided beach defense strategy. Most of these stockpiles were either destroyed by the retreating Fil-Am troops or captured by the Japanese, so the ammunition, food and medicine needed to withstand a lengthy siege of Bataan and Corregidor were not available. Almost immediately the Fil-Am defenders were placed on half rations, which eventually were reduced even further. As a result, the surrendered troops were malnourished and ill, which contributed to the high mortality rate on the Bataan Death March and in the prison camps.

When MacArthur reverted to War Plan Orange, it fell to the 26th Cavalry (PS) to shore up Philippine Army units attempting to delay the Japanese long enough to allow the bulk of MacArthur's command to withdraw from Manila, now declared an "open city." This maneuver was made more difficult for two reasons. First, most of the Fil-Am troops were forced to travel by land, thereby requiring them to move north from Manila towards the invading Japanese (who were closing in from the Lingayen Gulf landings), then swing

west skirting the impenetrable Candaba Swamp to prepared defensive positions on Bataan Peninsula. Secondly, this maneuver had been part of the West Point curriculum for more than 30 years, including periods when Japanese officers had studied at the military academy, so the Japanese high command knew exactly what to expect.

Despite these obstacles, in a series of courageous, hard-fought rear guard actions spearheaded by the 26th Cavalry, the Japanese were slowed sufficiently to allow the main body of MacArthur's troops to withdraw to Bataan. The week's delay in the Japanese advance was adequate for the troops, but not nearly enough to relocate supplies from the exposed caches. Casualties during the 26th Cavalry's heroic series of rearguard actions reduced the unit by a quarter to under 650 Scouts.

Bataan

Shortly after the reversion to War Plan Orange, in late December 1941, major Scout elements of the Philippine Division were moved to the Abucay line, the first row of defensive positions on the Bataan Peninsula. By January 9, all Fil-Am units were successfully repositioned in Bataan. The withdrawal had been costly, with the Fil-Am forces fighting the delaying action reduced to 30,000 men from an initial strength of 43,000. However, most of this reduction in force was due to desertions by inexperienced Filipino reservists. The Japanese lost around 4,500 men, more than half due to illness.

After some initial probing by both sides, the battle for Bataan began in earnest when the Japanese launched a major assault on January 11. Fortunately, the Japanese high command assumed that MacArthur's troops were in a state of near collapse and that their 50-day timetable for seizing the Philippines was on schedule. As a result, they ordered General Homma, commander of the Japanese invasion force, to release his 48th Division and the 5th Air Group for use in the upcoming Java campaign. These two seasoned units were Homma's best fighting assets. Largely made up of Formosans, the 48th had been a particularly nasty foe with a reputation for abusing prisoners and civilians. "Mopping up" on Bataan was now assigned to the Japanese 16th Division, which did not have a good combat record, and the newly arrived 65th Brigade. The 6,500 soldiers of the 65th Brigade were mostly conscripts intended for garrison duty, not a first rate fighting force.

Heroic Stand

Due mainly to the heroics of Scouts units, Fil-Am forces were able to hold the Abucay line just over two weeks, then retreated to their main defensive position, the Orion-Bagac Line, about half way down the peninsula. Here they fought the Japanese to a standstill, repulsing several attempted amphibious end runs and some temporary Japanese penetrations of the main defensive line. In late February the Japanese pulled back. They had absorbed 7,000 combat casualties and had between 10,000 and 12,000 troops incapacitated by disease. During his post-war trial for war crimes, General Homma testified that, by the end of February, his army had ceased to be an effective fighting force and that a Fil-Am counteroffensive would have overrun his command and retaken Manila.

However, depleted by combat casualties, starvation and disease, MacArthur's forces did not attempt a breakout. The pause in heavy combat was a prelude to the end for the Fil-Am defensive effort. Re-supplied with fresh troops, Homma launched a Good Friday offensive on April 3, which broke through the final Fil-Am defenses forcing an unconditional surrender of all the units on Bataan on April 9. Corregidor was to suffer the same fate on May 5.

The aftermath of the surrender was horrific. Of the 75,000 Fil-Am soldiers captured on Bataan, only 63,000 arrived alive at Camp O'Donnell following the Bataan Death March. Some of the 12,000 who were unaccounted for, escaped. However, many thousands died on the way, succumbing to thirst, starvation, disease and Japanese brutality. In camp O'Donnell itself, approximately 26,000 Filipinos and 1,565 Americans died. Included among the Filipino victims were 2,600 Scouts. Between combat, the Bataan Death March and prison camp, approximately half the 12,000 Scouts did not survive the war.

The 50-day conquest of the Philippines predicted by the Japanese high command had taken six months. The valiant stand of the Philippine Scouts had bought enough time to save Australia and New Zealand from invasion. These two countries would then become the staging point from which MacArthur would launch his island-hopping campaign leading to his wading ashore on a Leyte invasion beach in mid-October 1944, thereby making good on his famous "I shall return" promise.

The Japanese forces' unconditional surrender on August 15, 1945 ended World War II. The United States quickly moved to fulfill its pre-war promise, granting independence to the Philippines on July 4, 1946. These two events marked the beginning of the end for the Philippine Scouts. Many of the veteran Scouts became naturalized Americans and transfered to non-Scout units. By early 1950 only a few hundred unabsorbed pre-war Scouts remained. A proud tradition of loyalty and combat heroism in the service of the United States had ended, made obsolete by the demise of the colonial relationship and the achievement of full independence for the Philippines. ■

Armed with Courage: ***The well-trained Philippine Scouts courageously defended the Philippines when Japanese troops attacked in 1941. The Scouts' courage made up for the lack of supplies and reinforcements.***

J. Michael Houlahan is a retired Foreign Service Officer, who served as Cultural Affairs Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Manila from 1989 to 1992.

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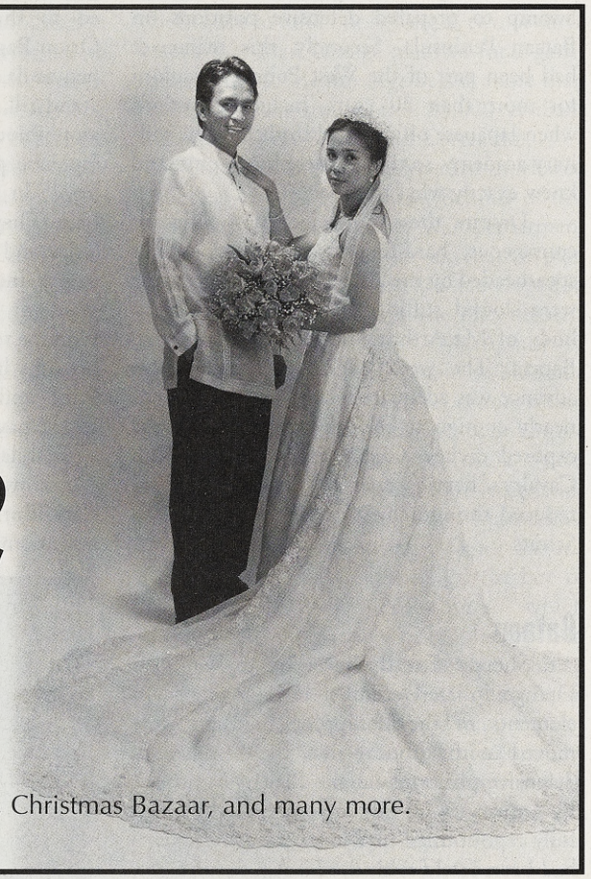

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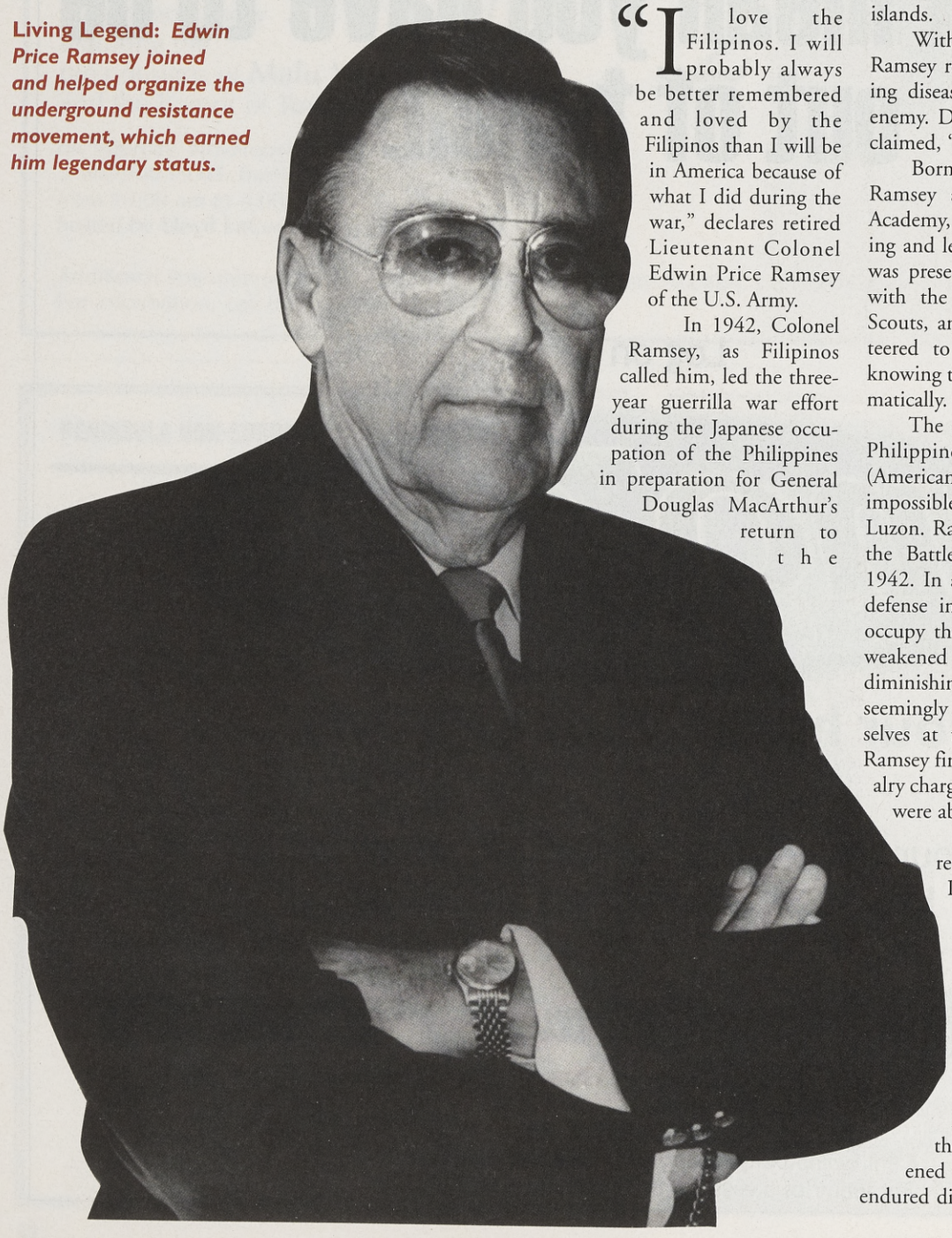
RAMSEY FIGHTS ON

By Rochelle Mabilangan



Living Legend: ***Edwin Price Ramsey joined and helped organize the underground resistance movement, which earned him legendary status.***

"I love the Filipinos. I will probably always be better remembered and loved by the Filipinos than I will be in America because of what I did during the war," declares retired Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Price Ramsey of the U.S. Army.

In 1942, Colonel Ramsey, as Filipinos called him, led the three-year guerrilla war effort during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in preparation for General Douglas MacArthur's return to the islands.

With 40,000 Filipinos and Americans, Ramsey remained behind enemy lines, fighting disease, harsh jungles and the Japanese enemy. Despite the great odds, Ramsey proclaimed, "I had not surrendered."

Born in Illinois and raised in Kansas, Ramsey attended the Oklahoma Military Academy, where he received his ROTC training and learned how to be a cavalryman. He was presented the opportunity to play polo with the famous 26th Cavalry Philippine Scouts, and on his 24th birthday, he volunteered to transfer to the Philippines, not knowing that his life was about to change dramatically.

The massive Japanese army invaded the Philippines and overpowered the Allied (American and Filipino) forces, making it impossible to protect the main island of Luzon. Ramsey's cavalry charge took place at the Battle of Morong, Bataan in January 1942. In an effort to sustain the last line of defense in Bataan, Ramsey was ordered to occupy the village of Morong. Despite their weakened state from continuous fighting and diminishing rations, he led his troops into the seemingly deserted village and found themselves at the onset of a Japanese advance. Ramsey finally commanded the last horse cavalry charge, and after a long battle, the troops were able to secure Morong.

Although Bataan eventually surrendered, stories of the treatment of POWs (Prisoners of War) fueled hatred against the Japanese. The resistance movement began. Ramsey joined the guerrillas and soon learned that MacArthur was depending on him to continue the fight until the Americans returned to the Philippines.

For three grueling years, Ramsey organized and sustained the guerrilla forces, fought and weakened the enemy, gathered intelligence, endured disease and malnutrition, and resist-

ed opportunities to escape.

In his book *Lieutenant Ramsey's War*, he writes, "I, an American, was leading their crusade for liberty and the life of their nation, and it was a heavy responsibility. Yet ultimately I was nothing but a symbol, a paraclete reminding them of the promise of salvation (by MacArthur)...Not until he returned would the Filipino people be liberated, nor would I be liberated, either."

Ramsey's efforts made him a legend in the Philippines. He is the recipient of several medals, awards and honors from both countries. In the U.S., he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by MacArthur for heroism in combat; Silver Star with Cluster; Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart; and Honorary Green Beret, among many others. In the Philippines, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Conduct Star, equivalent to the U.S. Distinguished Service Cross; Distin-guished Service Star, equivalent to the U.S. Silver Star; Gold Cross, equivalent to the U.S. Bronze Star Medal; Wounded Personnel Medal; Philippine Legion of Honor—Degree of Commander; *Sagisag Ng Kagitingan* (Cross of Valor); Philippine Defense Medal; and Philippine Liberation Medal with Bronze Service Star.

Ramsey's book chronicles his transformation from Philippine scout to guerrilla commander, and eventually, to Filipino patriot. Ramsey writes, "I was no longer merely with the Filipino people; I was of them. I was not simply organizing among them; I had grown organically to be a part of them. Their struggle had become my struggle, and their liberation, inevitably, would be mine as well...We were one people fighting for a single ideal."

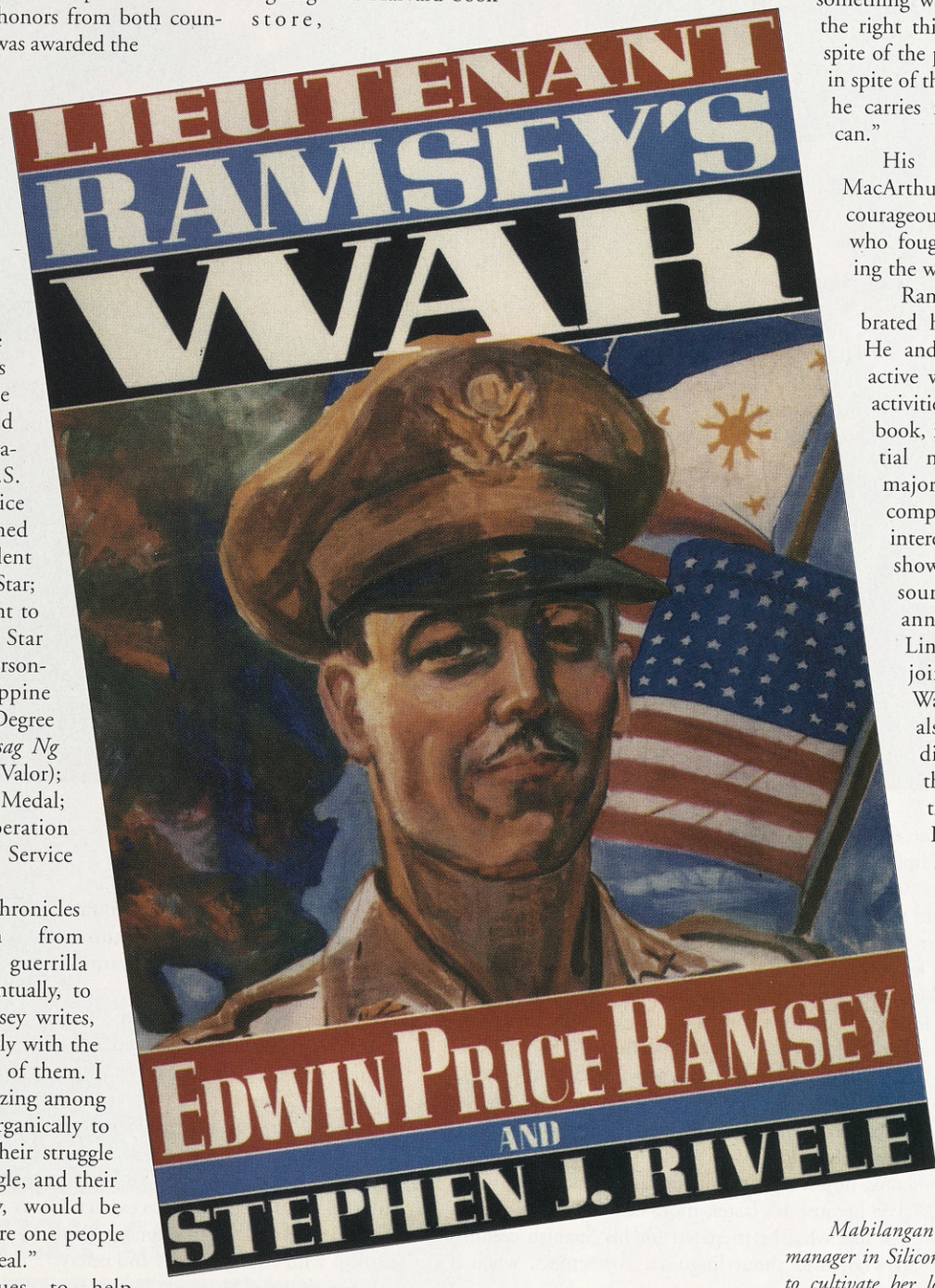
Ramsey continues to help Filipinos today. Appearing before congressional committees on two occasions, he has been pushing Congress to pass the acts that will give the Filipino World War II veterans the benefits promised to them over 50 years ago. He feels this is the least that could be done for the sacrifices they and many other Filipinos have made, noting that many actually died protecting him.

Lieutenant Ramsey's War has had profound effects on Filipinos across the globe. He receives books from all over the United States and abroad from strangers, asking for his autograph. He also had the second largest book signing at a Harvard bookstore, after astronaut Neil Armstrong. One fan of the book was a Filipino survivor of the Bataan Death March. The man held Ramsey, cried and thanked him for saving his life and his home country, the Philippines.

The word "hero" is often used today. Ramsey defines a hero as "somebody who has a job to do that may be dangerous, but he does it anyway—whether he lives or dies. It isn't a question of whether he lives through it or not, it's the fact that he takes on something which he believes is the right thing to do. And in spite of the problems involved, in spite of the danger involved, he carries it on the best he can."

His own heroes are MacArthur and the many courageous men and women who fought with him during the war.

Ramsey recently celebrated his 85th birthday. He and his wife remain active with all the media activities surrounding the book, including a potential movie deal. Two major motion picture companies have shown interest thus far. The show business news source, *Variety*, announced "New Line Cinema has joined Ramsey's War." The Ramseys also met with a director hired by the company, but the complexities of Hollywood movie making have prevented the film from becoming a reality just yet. ■



Art Imitating Life: ***Ramsey's war exploits, as chronicled in his book, may soon be immortalized on celluloid, courtesy of Hollywood.***

To read more about Colonel Ramsey, visit www.edwinpriceramsey.com.

Rochelle Mabilangan is a marketing manager in Silicon Valley and aspires to cultivate her love for acting and become more involved in the Filipino community. She can be reached at RochelleMabi @sbcglobal.net.

Mechado *Unreally Good*

NEAL OSHIMA, REPRINTED FROM FILIPINO CUISINE: CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY CENTENNIAL COLLECTION

The Filipino dish *mechado* is a misnomer, because of the way it is prepared. A Filipino cook would simply stew meat and some vegetables in tomato sauce and *voilá*—mechado.

Purists would insist that what he whipped up was not a mechado because he did not hew to the true meaning of the dish's name. Mechado comes from the Spanish verb *mechar,* which literally means "to lard." It's an elaborate process that entails minor surgery. A hunk of meat or poultry is incised and then stuffed with strips of fat, bacon or ham, for juiciness and flavor. That's just the beginning of the ordeal. The next step requires sewing up the incision, stewing the stuffed meat in tomato sauce until tender, then roasting it to perfection, all the while basting it with broth. Now, that's how to prepare a mechado, if one were to be linguistically strict.

The Filipino cook, however, cuts out the fat and skips the surgical procedures. Maybe because it's faster, more economical, and ends up tasting very much like what he prepared for his Spanish colonial masters anyway. So who cares about linguistic correctness, when it tastes just as good? – VZA

Ingredients:

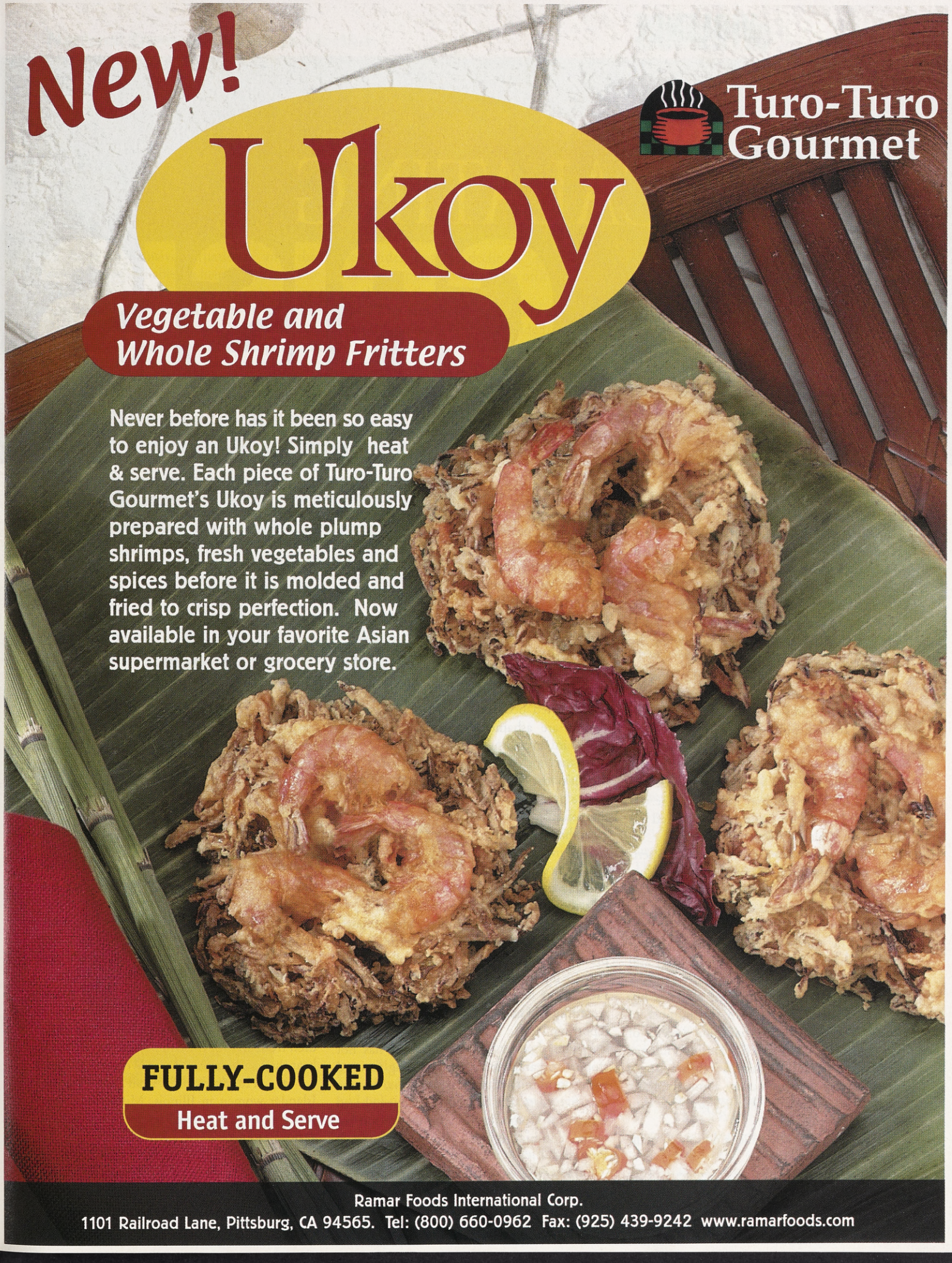
2 tablespoons cooking oil
1 lb. lean beef, cubed
1 lb. beef liver, sliced
1 head garlic, minced
2 onions, chopped
1 teaspoon soy sauce
1 teaspoon black pepper, ground
2 tablespoons *achuete* (annatto seeds), soaked and extracted in 1 cup warm water
2 red bell peppers, sliced
2 green bell peppers, sliced
6 pieces potatoes, quartered and fried
1 stalk celery, sliced

Heat oil in a frying pan. Stir-fry beef and liver. Set Aside.

Saute garlic, onions and tomatoes in hot oil until soft. Combine the meat mixture and season with soy sauce and pepper. Mix well. Pour 1 cup annatto extract. Cover and let boil. Lower heat and simmer until meat is tender. Add the bell peppers. Serve hot. Garnish with fried potatoes and celery.

Serves eight. ■

Recipe reprinted from Filipino Cuisine: Centro Escolar University Centennial Collection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Domestic Violence:

ESCALATING CRISIS

By Cherie M. Querol Moreno

Claire Joyce Tempongko thought she was finally free.

She had broken up with boyfriend Tari Ramirez whose reported drinking problem made their once-promising relationship torture for her and her two children.

The future was beginning to look bright. The 28-year-old jewelry store clerk got excellent marks in her job review, so she knew she was getting a promotion.

The bruises on her body had faded. Soon, the nights that made her dread coming home would be but a memory. No one would slap her around, pull her hair, choke her and curse her anymore. She trusted in the law.

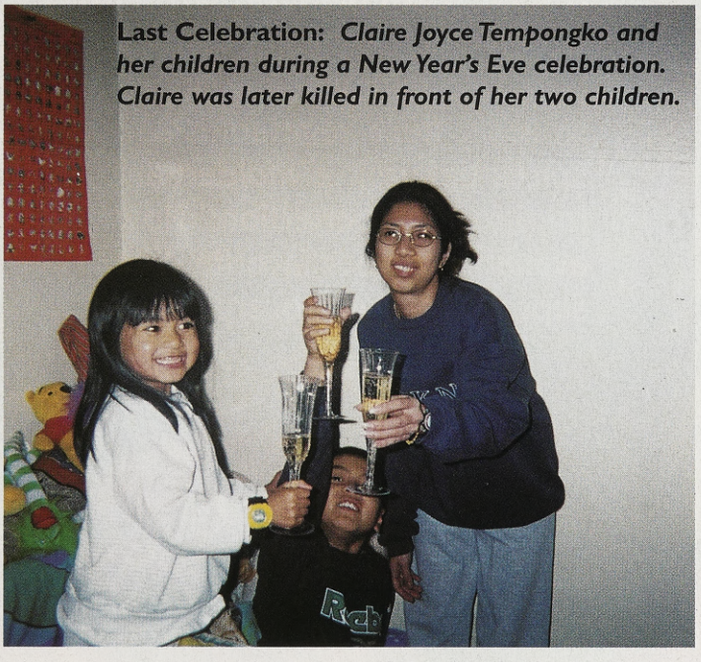
But on October 22, 2000, the single mother was killed, allegedly by Ramirez in front of her own children. Ironically, she was murdered on the month designated as Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Women's advocacy groups say her experience is becoming increasingly common especially among immigrants and must be addressed by strong leadership including elected officials.

"The (anti-domestic violence) movement has been ongoing for 25-30 years and October has been observed as awareness month for about 15 years, but we have not seen a dramatic decrease in the number of cases," said Leni Marin, managing director of the San Francisco-based Family Violence Prevention Fund. "We have a long way to go in educating the community about domestic violence as potentially a lethal problem with women and children."

Dealing with the issue is doubly difficult in communities of color.

"Domestic violence is a problem in all communities, but determining the extent of the problem is quite a challenge in the immigrant sector because of cultural barriers," said Joy Caneda, a counselor with the Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco. "Incidents often are not reported because victims are ashamed to be in an abusive situation, not realizing it's the abuser whose behavior is shameful."



Last Celebration: ***Claire Joyce Tempongko and her children during a New Year's Eve celebration. Claire was later killed in front of her two children.***

Shame forces the victim into isolation and silence. The lack of data hampers efforts to assist victims or prevent the worst eventualities, Caneda said.

"No studies have sampled a large enough number of Asian Americans to estimate the prevalence of partner abuse," according to statistics logged by the Family Violence Prevention Fund. "The lack of statistics regarding API communities reflects the underreporting."

The absence of hard numbers has not stopped organizations from pushing forward with community education programs. For the past five years, the San Mateo County-based Center for Domestic Violence Prevention has been conducting a Filipino Outreach Program.

However, a new national organization, the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, a resource center about domestic violence, listed the following staggering figures:

- Over 1,000 telephone requests per year were made to a Berkeley, California, domestic violence help line for South Asian women.
- Over 4,000 Asian women and children from all over the country are served yearly at the San Francisco Asian Women's Shelter.
- Hundreds of Asian and Pacific Islander women in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey and Texas utilized services provided by various groups.
- Over 3,000 women report spouse abuse yearly at the New York Asian Women's

Center.

The Institute also noted that in a 1990 survey of 54 undocumented Filipino women in San Francisco, 20 percent experienced domestic violence in the United States or in the Philippines, or both. The survey was conducted by the Women's Task Force of the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

The programs stress that victims are not at fault in abusive situations, and that resources are available for help. Advocates also correct misperceptions that domestic violence is acceptable in certain cultures, as Jacqueline Agtuca, former San Francisco State University Asian Studies and Women's Studies professor, said in her 1994 book, "A Community Secret: For the Filipina in an Abusive Relationship."

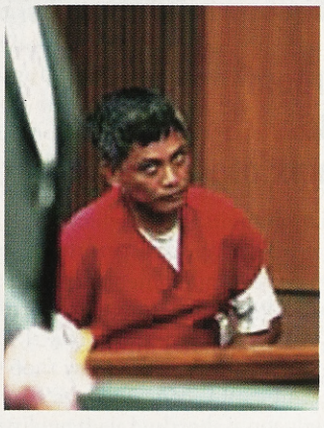
"Many Filipinos think that domestic violence is part of our culture," said Agtuca. "In a number of murder cases in which a Filipino or Asian man stood trial for the murder of his wife, his culture was raised as a legal defense to the crime."

Recent Cases

Besides shame, fear paralyzes the victim, as in the case of a Filipino nurse killed last year, allegedly by her husband with a staple gun in their Stockton, California, home.

Authorities found Pescador waiting at home in his blood-soaked clothes as his wife of 20 years, Norma, 42, lay dead in the utility room. Forensic officials testified that the victim had 9 nail wounds in her head.

According to the *Associated Press*, Stockton Police Sgt. Charles Arellano testified in court that Pescador met him at the door, clutching a rosary and statue of the Virgin Mary, and confessed to the crime. The police said Pescador attributed the killing to "stress" over house repairs. The family had just moved into a fixer-upper two months before.



Violent Act: ***Police testified that Pescador blamed stress for the killing of his wife.***

The emergency call was the first from the Pescador residence, but police said they were familiar with the address because of complaints from neighbors bothered by loud arguments from the Pescador home.

"A week or two before the incident we had offered the wife an emergency protection order, but she declined," said Doug Andersen, public information officer of the Stockton Police Department.

"The family was apparently afraid of him (Manolito)," Anderson added.

Abusers can be loving one minute, homicidal the next, as illustrated by the May 11 stabbing death of Lorena Dancel, 27.

San Francisco police who raced in response to a call from a Tenderloin area apartment found a bouquet of roses and a Mother's Day card vowing "eternal love" next to the slain woman. Her husband, Roger Dancel, 39, an airport shuttle driver, reportedly told them he had attacked her with a kitchen knife out of jealousy, in front of their two children. And then he called the police.

"Authorities said a month or two before the crime there was a mild altercation between the Dancels, but neighbors intervened," said Assistant District Attorney James Hammer.

Cracks in the System

One month before the Dancel murder, Clara Tempongko, Claire Joyce's mother, sued the city and county of San Francisco for releasing Ramirez despite her daughter's pleas to enforce a restraining order after police had arrested and charged him with attempted murder.

"Somewhere, someone slept on the job," said Clara Tempongko. "Where were the police when Ramirez went to my daughter's house?"

While Claire Joyce has become a symbol of cracks in the legal system, Clara is now a voice for victims' rights. She shares her experience at meetings of women's groups, hoping to spare someone her daughter's fate.

"What happened to my daughter was a personal tragedy for our family," she said.

"My hope is that lessons can be learned and policies implemented that will prevent other people from enduring what happened to my daughter and my family."

The Family Violence Prevention Fund established the Committee for Justice for

WHY FILIPINOS DON'T REPORT ABUSE

Shame and fear are the major reasons why Filipinos trapped in abusive relationships do not seek help, according to Carolyn Moore, director of Community Education at the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CDVP). "There may be a sense of airing dirty laundry in public that makes them uncomfortable sharing problems outside of the family," Moore explains.

Social stigma is another discouraging factor for Filipino and other immigrant victims. "Any oppressed group would feel reluctant to share their troubles with the dominant society for fear of being looked down on," Moore said. She observes that at the CDVP, more often than not, Filipino victims tend to seek out Filipino counselors. "But then again, sometimes they look for someone who's not Filipino, out of fear that the counselor may know the abuser or their family, and word may get out," she notes.

Married Filipino victims who are not legal residents are subjected to psychological threats as well. "Batterers will threaten them by saying they would report to the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) and get them deported. That can be paralyzing," Moore says. The CDVP stresses that victims caught in this situation have recourse in the law. Under the Violence Against Women Act, married immigrant women can divorce their abusive petitioner spouse, and self-petition for residency. The victim must first show proof that she is married to a legal resident who is abusive, by filing a police report when the abuse occurs.

If you are in an abusive relationship, the CDVP wants you to know:

- **It is not your fault, you do not deserve abuse.**
- **You do not have to keep it a secret.**
- **The CDVP's services are free, cuturally sensitive and confidential.**
- **The CDVP serves anyone regardless of immigration status.** ■

Fighting the System: ***Clara Tempongko, Claire's mother, sued the city and county of San Francisco for releasing Ramirez, her daughter's alleged killer.***

Claire Joyce Tempongko, raising a $10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Tari Ramirez, which Treasurer Susan Leal and the mayor's office increased to $25,000 in February last year.

The Tempongko tragedy forced the city and county of San Francisco to review agencies' policies and procedures on domestic violence and submit recommendations for improvement. Public hearings were held to evaluate criminal justice and social service systems' response to domestic violence.

Unspoken

The issue was spoken behind closed doors until the 1990s.

The term "domestic violence" was not mentioned once in "The Decade of Women," an album published in 1980 by *Ms.* Magazine, heralding the highlights of the women's movement in the 1970s. The chapter on violence refers to "battered women" forced into pornography but makes no mention of spousal abuse.

Perhaps the case that turned the nation's eyes to the problem was the 1994 stabbing death of Nicole Brown Simpson allegedly by her former husband, football icon O.J. Simpson. Although the case closed with an acquittal in the criminal trial for Simpson (who was found guilty in the subsequent civil lawsuit), media coverage of the couple's violent fights focused on the pervasiveness of the problem.

But the 1990 slaying of Veena Charan by her estranged husband Joseph jolted the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women on the seriousness of the issue, particularly in immigrant communities.

The Charan report compelled the city to develop a model for its first citywide response to domestic violence. But while many of its recommendations were implemented, the creation of an "oversight body" was not, weakening communication and coordination between agencies in the criminal justice system.

"A $6 million interagency computer system in place since the Charan murder has remained idle because no one has been trained to use it," said Esta Soler, president of the Family Violence Prevention Fund. "Like Charan, Tempongko asked for legal protection from her abuser—but mislaid paperwork in the case allowed his hastened release from jail."

Ramirez remains at large and is believed to have fled to his native Mexico. ■

Cherie M. Querol Moreno is a longtime journalist and women's rights activist.

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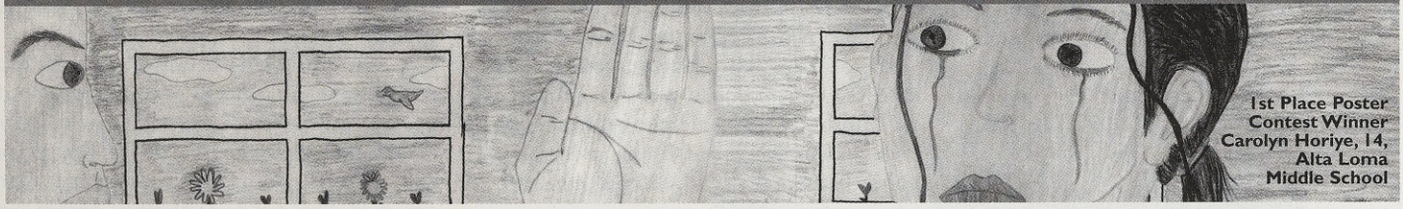

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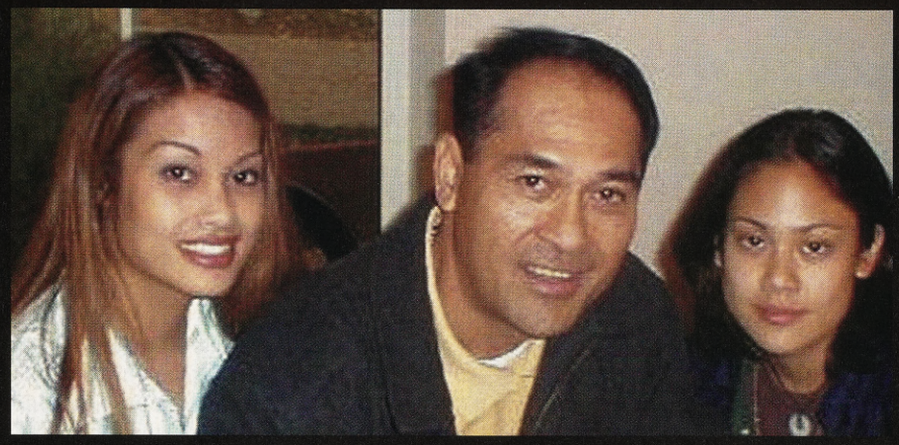


The Victim: ***Manuel "Noli" Boquiren was stabbed to death by his wife Loida Cruz in their home. His daughter, Jennifer (left) was waiting for her father outside when the incident happened. With other daughter Janel.***

Can Abuse Cut Both Ways?

By Monica R. Sagullo

Days before Father's Day, Loida Cruz, 40, stabbed her ex-husband to death while arguing about their son's upcoming birthday party.

Police found Manuel "Noli" Boquiren lying in a pool of blood on the living room floor. Their son was safe upstairs in their Hall Ranch Parkway home.

Cruz was taken to Eden Hospital for treatment of minor lacerations to the abdomen, put on overnight suicide watch, then booked in Santa Rita Jail on charges of first-degree murder.

When domestic violence comes to mind, the image that usually arises is the unfortunate situation of a woman with an abusive man. But, as the Cruz-Boquiren case exemplifies, that stereotype is not always the case.

Dr. Dwight Grisham of Couples in Conflict, a family and relationship clinic in San Francisco says half of the time it is the female partner that does the abusing.

"In my 20 years of professional experience, it is about fifty-fifty," he says. "Many people don't want to believe that as many men get abused as the women. Oftentimes, wives think striking their husbands is not abuse, but they are in complete denial."

When the abuse starts, it becomes a habit and escalates, he said, rationalizing his theory. When this happens, he suggests the couple seek help right away.

"They should get outside intervention," Grisham recommends. Whether a social service agency, a priest or a friend, he said help outside of the family is the first step in finding a solution to violence.

He thinks that society accepts female offenders and is much more reluctant to identify them as abusers.

Grisham's cases range in various stages of abuse—from first-time strikers to repeat offenders getting worse. Some are really worried and want to understand what is going on and how to express their emotions in a non-violent way, Grisham says. Some couples were recently released from jail and are now seeking licensed professional advice and counseling.

When the abuse starts, it becomes a habit and escalates, he said. When this happens, he suggests the couple seek help right away.

Mothers and Media

"If a woman is abusive, it is most likely that they had mothers who were also abusive," Grisham said.

Dr. Rezai Zhain, a private psychologist in San Francisco agrees.

"Own childhood experiences, where disputes are not handled properly, can affect the way a person reacts to disputes as an adult, " Zhain says. "As they grow up it becomes what they know and what they do to resolve conflicts."

With proper understanding of conflict resolution, he believes people would not resort to violence in resolving issues.

In his practice, Zhain also observed another catalyst. Anyone who feels like they are "up against a brick wall" could also be provoked into violence, he said.

"People should give one another choices rather than an ultimatum," he advises.

As a medium of our culture, Grisham says the media play a role in shaping the way people see domestic violence.

"Media are supportive of women hitting men on TV shows," he observes.

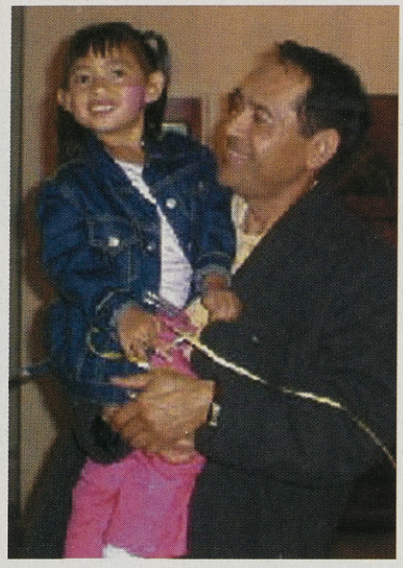
In media, men are laughed at when they are hit and women get the idea it's ok, Grisham said. When a man strikes a woman out of frustration, he is seen as the villain and the audience is appalled.

Most men do not come out and express concern over battery due to societal pressures and the status quo, Grisham says.

The embarrassment factor takes a different toll on men when faced with a domestic violence situation. Compared with women, men are culturally expected to play the dominant role in the relationship and are therefore more reluctant to admit they are scared of their partners.

Asian Perspective

Regarding the Filipino American community, Grisham said that in his small sample



Witness: ***Noli Boquiren's daughter saw incidents of Loida Cruz's abusive behavior toward her husband. Boquiren with granddaughter Jiselle.***

of Filipino American patients, it is more common that the woman is the offender.

Dr. Albert Gaw, director of the Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility at San Francisco General Hospital disagrees.

Cautious of generalizations, he says, "There seems to be a cultural bias. In many cultures, it is more acceptable for a man to hit a woman. It is part of the Asian culture. It is true in Taiwan, China and the Philippines where the male is perceived to be much more dominant and the female subservient, although, women in the Philippines are much more assertive."

Gaw says what is more common in Asian cultures is the acceptance of the male dominant role and the tolerance of abusive males. He recalls an incident when he was in China and saw a man slap his wife on the corner of the street in broad daylight and she did not even fight back.

Grisham opposes Gaw's view, believing that abuse cuts both ways, but is not reported. "There is a mythology in culture that wants to say violence by women is OK," Grisham argues. He says culture does not want to believe that women could be dominant and violent, making it worse for everyone involved.

"It makes it worse for the woman because they don't recognize it in themselves and that can cause great damage by hurting someone," he says.

In those situations, it is best to part as a couple and leave each other, he urges.

Not Just Domestic Violence

In the case of Cruz and Boquiren, the couple was already familiar with the presence of violence in the relationship. Married eight years ago, the couple divorced after two years in matrimony and was only recently back living together for the sake of their son.

Though rehabilitation from violence is always possible, some couples are better off apart.

Police investigators say both Loida and Noli had prior records of minor domestic violence in 1995 and 1997–"pushing and shoving type of situations" in which both were arrested or released without charges.

Family members were living with the couple at the time and they have a different story.

Jennifer Boquiren, Noli's daughter from his first marriage, says she lived with them when both incidents occurred. "Because I lived there in '95 and was there in '97 when both events were happening, I know what really happened," she said in an e-mail response.

"In '95 when she was fighting with my dad, she called 911 and was hitting her own head against the wall (as) he was sitting ten feet away from her. She claimed that her husband was beating her. I got on the phone and tried to tell the 911 operator that she was lying, but of course, you know how the law is here…they came and arrested my father," she explains.

"In '97, my dad wanted to divorce her because of her selfishness and violent threats and ways. When she found out that my dad was getting in touch with a divorce lawyer, she was on a rampage. She did many immature things such as turning on the shower water full blast, letting toast burn in the toaster, pouring laundry detergent in my dad's fishpond, calling my aunt and my *lola* (grandmother) bad names, etc."

Records of these incidents have been submitted to the District Attorney's office for review, Jennifer says.

On the fateful day of June 1st, Jennifer recalls, "I was parked outside my father's house at 11:28 a.m., calling him from my cell phone because I saw that his car was there outside the house. I wanted him to come outside and talk to me and see his granddaughter because he has not seen her in a long time. It was really difficult for my family to spend time with my father because of Loida."

After spotting her ex-stepmom's car in the driveway, Jennifer says she stayed in her car to wait for her dad and refused to ring the doorbell because she and Loida did not get along.

"She answered the phone and lied to me and said that he went out. She made numerous calls, starting at around 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. to her relatives. I know because my father's phone is in my name and I had analyzed the series of calls made," she explained.

"As she was talking with me, my father was gone already."

During an arraignment at the Fremont Superior Court, several members of the Boquiren family were present to see Loida in shackles, flanked by her private defense attorney Frank Lang of Hayward.

Teary-eyed and burning with grief, Boquiren's mother, daughters, aunts, cousins and nephews were also there.

Lang declined comment on the case, stating, "There are still many unknowns in this case." The case was recently assigned to D.A. Connie Campbell. She says, "The case is not a domestic violence case, it's a murder." ■

His View: ***Psychiatrist Dr. Albert Gaw disagrees with the assumption that in cases of domestic violence in Filipino Americans, the woman is usually the offender.***

To report domestic abuse, call the Nationa Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD) or e-mail ndvh@ndvh.org pr dcafhelp@hdvh.org.

Monica R. Sagullo is a recent graduate from the University of California, Berkeley. A freelance writer, she has written for several publications in the Bay Area such as Philippine News *and ANG Newspapers, a chain which include the* Oakland Tribune, Fremont Argus *and* The San Mateo County Times.

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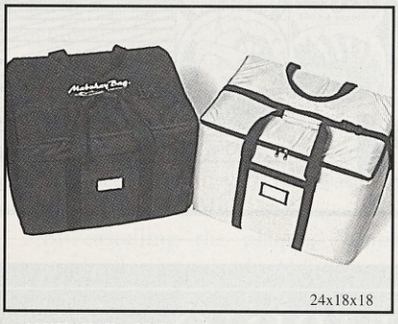

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Wrong Plaque, *continued from page 33*

soldiers' own disgust at waging a war of conquest, ultimately had positive consequences for the United States. "The bitter experience of the Philippine-American War ensured that the American people would not embrace imperialism as a pillar of their national policy. The volunteer soldiers of this state expressed strong views on this subject. Thanks to them and to many other Americans of conscience, the United States remained faithful to its democratic roots in its rise as a great world power. The Philippines was to be the first and the last major overseas U.S. colony."

Great Enthusiasm

State officials expressed great enthusiasm for the corrective plaque. Lt. Gov. Schunk said, "It's always important to fix our mistakes, especially when a public display gives out the wrong historical information. This new plaque is a story of responsibility, respect and recognition."

Minnesota Adjutant General Eugene Andreotti, head of the state's national guard who favored the correction, added, "I may be a general, but there is no way that I could have accomplished what they (PSGM) did in the amount of time they did."

By installing the plaque, Minnesota became the first state in the U.S. to correct a memorial concerning the Philippine-American War. Similar concerns have been raised about memorials to the war in San Francisco, Philadelphia and Springfield, Illinois.

"I hope that this action by the State of Minnesota can serve as a model for other states," said Michael Cullinane, associate director of the University of Wisconsin's Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

The new plaque is an 18" by 48" bronze casting, called "Unearthing History" by its sculptor, Anne Klefstad of Duluth. It depicts the revised historical account being uncovered from tropical foliage after years of obscurity.

Layese added, "We should all be proud that our state, by making this correction, has proclaimed that truth dishonors no one." ■

Ken Meter, a member of the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota since 1986, initiated the PSGM effort campaign to correct the 13th Minnesota commemorative plaque. A former journalist, he won the National Catholic Press Association award for human rights coverage in 1986 for his report on the rise of Corazon Aquino to the presidency of the Philippines. He serves as president of Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis.

Albuquerque's Bataan Memorial

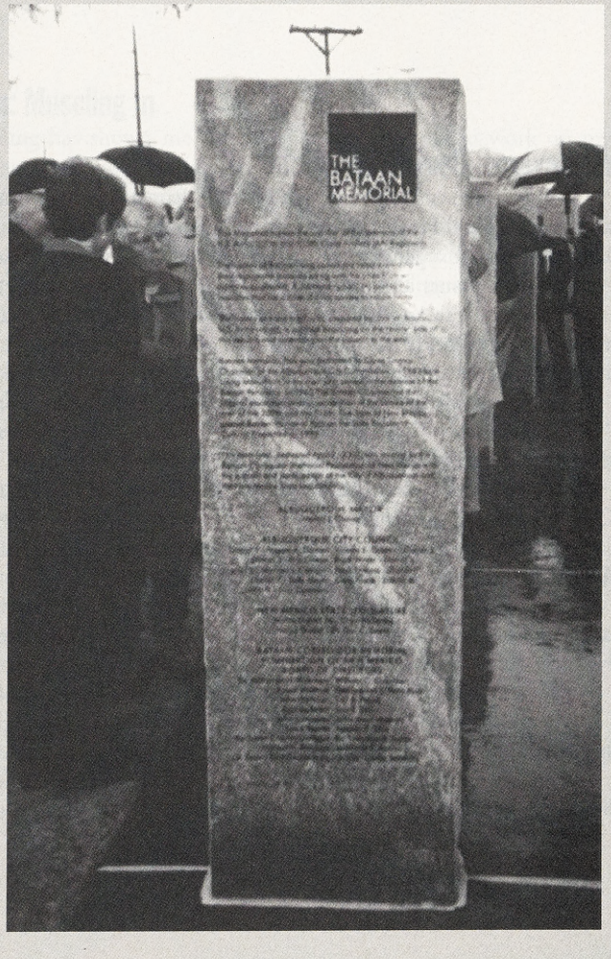
Believed to be the most decorated units of World War II, New Mexico's 200th and 515th Coast Artillery units served in defense of Bataan and Corregidor, fighting valiantly against the Japanese. As General Douglas MacArthur noted, "No troops have ever done so much with so little." After the surrender of the two strongholds, these soldiers suffered for three-and-a-half years as prisoners of war (POWs). New Mexico had the highest POW population per capita of any state in the Union.

To honor the unit's heroic acts, the Albuquerque City Commission passed on March 2, 1943 an official resolution naming one of its parks "Bataan Memorial Park." Located between Amherst Drive and Tulane Drive on Lomas Boulevard, it is a place where veterans congregate to share their experiences and memories, as well as to spend time with their families. In 1960, Albuquerque's citizens erected a stone memorial in the park. In September 1999, the park was placed on the Register of Cultural Properties to preserve its historical integrity.

The veterans' desire to see the names of the men of the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery memorialized in the park was granted last April 7, 2002 with the dedication of the Bataan-Corregidor Monument, and with the help of the Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation headed by president Aldemar N. Alcantara, vice president William Overmier, secretary Georgiana Pena-Kues and treasurer Ernest Monroya. Funded by the City of Albuquerque and the New Mexico State Legislature, the expanded memorial consists of 12 granite columns bearing the names and stories of those who served. The columns symbolize the infamous Bataan Death March. Landscape architect William S. Perkins says, "These columns allude to a line of men walking on a road."

The new memorial's walkway leads to the original monument. A series of stepping stones create the image of the island nation of the Philippines, in recognition of the shared experience of Filipinos and New Mexicans.

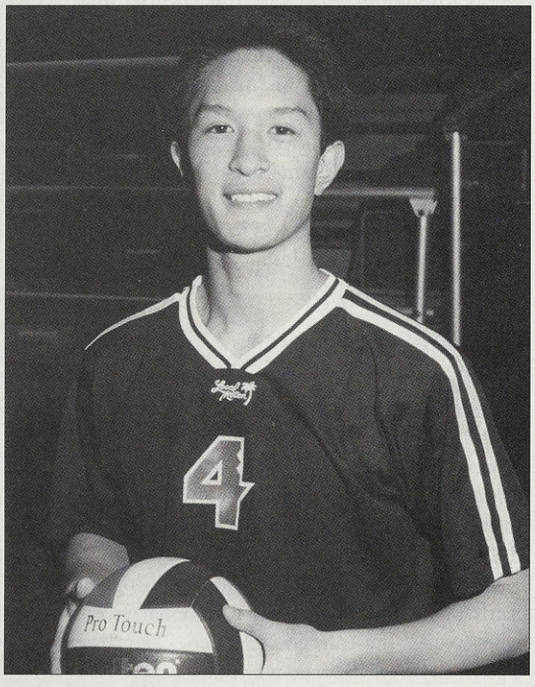
Mr. Agapito Silva, a veteran, says he wants his grandchildren's children to come to the Memorial Park, to see his name engraved in one of the columns and to proudly say, "There is Agapito Silva, my grandpa. He was in Bataan."—EM



GABRIEL H. GALLEGOS

Dedication Ceremonies: *On April 7, 2002, the names of the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery were memorialized in the Bataan Memorial Park.*

Christian Kimo Tuyay: All Set



While it is rare to find Filipino Americans in volleyball, a sport where height is key, Christian Kimo Tuyay is an intimidating competitor. Touted as one of the country's top players, the San Diego native considers volleyball to be "a way of life."

It is a way of life that has certainly paid off. The six-foot-three setter was a two-year Junior Olympics All-America player and a San Diego Section High School Player of the Year.

Tuyay's college record is just as impressive. As a 2001 freshman at the University of Hawaii, Tuyay earned a starting position on one of the country's best college volleyball teams. That same year, Tuyay made the ASICS/Volleyball Magazine All-American Team and was named the publication's Freshman of the Year. The Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) Conference awarded Tuyay Co-Freshman of the Year honors.

Perhaps Tuyay's biggest achievement came when he set his University of Hawaii team at the 2002 National Volleyball Championships. They beat Pepperdine and won the first national title for a Hawaii men's program.

Kimo's father believes his son, on and off the court, is "a great role model to young Filipinos who are trying to identify with positive images of being 'Pinoy.'" Indeed, while "Hawaii fans are just realizing that I am a Filipino American," Tuyay says. "It makes me feel good to see the Filipino fans acknowledge that one of their favorite sports figures is Filipino."

Val Navarro: Panting to Paint

Val Navarro is a native of San Nicolas, Pangasinan. He is a fine arts graduate of Feati University in Manila. Art is his passion. "Painting is my oxygen," he says. "I just feel restless if I don't paint."

Navarro paints almost every day. He works on landscape, still life, figure, portrait and human interest, using oil, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media. He has had numerous exhibitions worldwide. His clients have come as far as Saudi Arabia.

He finds women to be fascinating subjects. Nude women? "No," he replies. "They have their clothes on. I usually try to show their confidence in my paintings."

In his Chicagoland exhibitions, he has observed that his Chicago-scenery paintings sell quickly. "Chicago is a great city," he says. "Its lakefront and skyscrapers are just awesome! People want to have the Chicago view right in their living rooms."

He learns by teaching. He has taught art classes at Bahay Kubo in Roselle, Illinois, and Hanover Park Community Center in Havover Park, Illinois.

"I want to bring out the best in my students," he explains. "Maybe only a few of them will become artists. But if I have at least sparkled their love for the arts, then I have succeeded."

Navarro is also a graphic artist with United Engravers, Inc., in Schaumburg, Illinois, where he designs packaging, label and display.

Mylene Marie: A Trilling Career

Mylene Marie has been writing and singing since she was a child, but it wasn't until five years ago that she began a serious singing and songwriting career when she did the club circuit in Portland, Oregon. But unlike most musicians who get discovered via this route, Mylene Marie got her break singing at her grandmother's funeral. Impressed by her voice, a woman approached her and introduced her to her current manager, Joseph Camacho. From there, she was introduced to her current bandmates Don Randi, who plays keyboards and has worked with Neil Young and the Beach Boys, drummer Chet McCracken who played with the Doobie Brothers, and guitarist Chris Pinnick who played with Chicago.

Mylene Marie describes her music as "country rhythm and blues. It's a mixture of country rock, some blues, country pop." Among her musical influences are Wynona Judd, Janis Joplin, Jewel and Alanis Morissette.

She also writes her own songs. "Love is a constant subject," she says. "I try to write something uplifting. I've also written gospel Christian music." She wrote about her journey to California in the song "Runaway," while "Adrian" is "a spiritual look at life."

Apart from writing, Mylene Marie also does her arrangements. She plays the rhythm guitar and the piano, too.

She is currently working on a fall tour of San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. Two of her songs will be in a motion picture soundtrack. She says, "My goal is to encourage faith, hope and love in the hearts of the people through music, works and deeds."

Heath Warren: Muscling In

"Bodybuilding has shown me discipline and taught me to work on my dreams, as well as think about my health," says 26-year-old bodybuilder Heath Warren. "It saved me from getting in trouble."

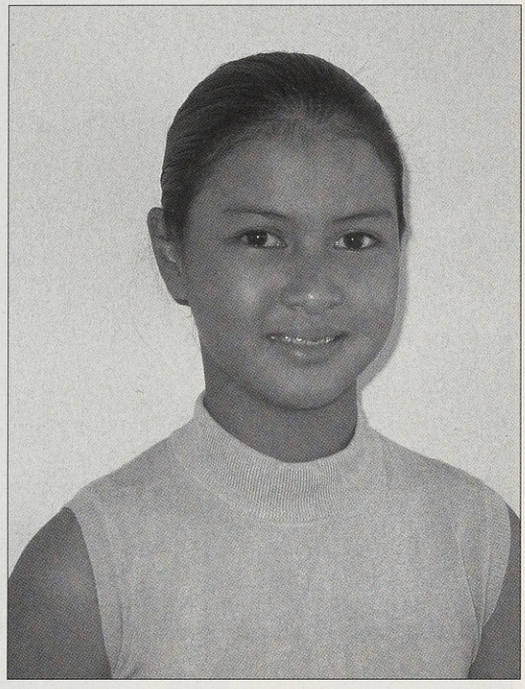
While in high school, Warren had been involved in wrestling. One time at practice, he met his best friend Eric, who was a bodybuilder. Eric encouraged him to work out and build his physique. Warren quit wrestling and began bodybuilding.

"My parents were against it (at first) because I used to get in trouble a lot and they thought that if I quit wrestling, I'd get into trouble again. I would sneak out at night to work out in the gym," says Warren.

"My typical day pre-competition involves working out, not missing a meal and relaxing. When I'm preparing for a show, I start dieting 12 to 16 weeks before. I cut down on fats and increase my carbohydrate intake. I also add cardio to my training."

Warren's efforts paid off. He started competing and has won several bodybuilding awards. He won first place in the Bantamweight class in the 1998 Northwest bodybuilding championship. In 1999, he won first place at the Bantamweight class of the Emeraldcup. In 2001, he won first place again at the Emeraldcup. This year, he placed fourth in the U.S.A. bodybuilding championship, a national show. He is currently getting ready for a national competition in Dallas, Texas on November 22 and 23. He hopes to go pro someday.

Katrina Marie Delen-Briones: Goals in One



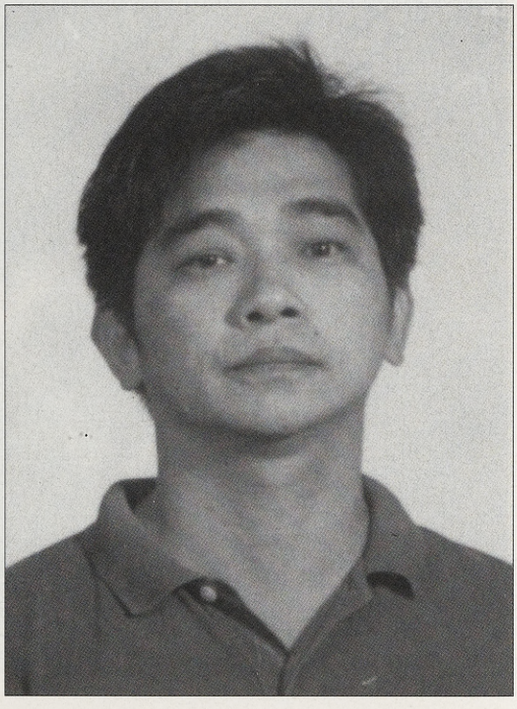
Every day after school, 12-year-old Katrina Delen-Briones spends three hours practicing at one of the two golf courses in Batangas City. With a professional golfer especially brought in from Manila, Delen-Briones fine-tunes the skills that have made her a Philippine Junior Golf Champion.

Although she has been playing golf for only four years, Delen-Briones has already competed in international tournaments in Singapore, Malaysia and the United States. In July this year, Delen-Briones, sponsored by Philippine Airlines, traveled to the Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, California. She finished 18 out of the 52 girls in her division.

Her mother, Delza Delen, calls golf "a family activity." Delen-Briones' interest in golf was spurred her father and her older sister Kristein, who is also a Philippine Junior Golf Champion, in a higher age bracket.

Considered by many to be an exclusive and costly sport, golf has only just begun to gain popularity in the Philippines. Often, Delen-Briones finds herself the only young girl on a golf course full of businessmen. She hopes to enter a college golf program in the U.S. before pursuing golf at a professional level. "I'll be competing for a while, but I'll be playing golf for an even longer time," Delen-Briones said.

Perry S. Ong: Nature Boy



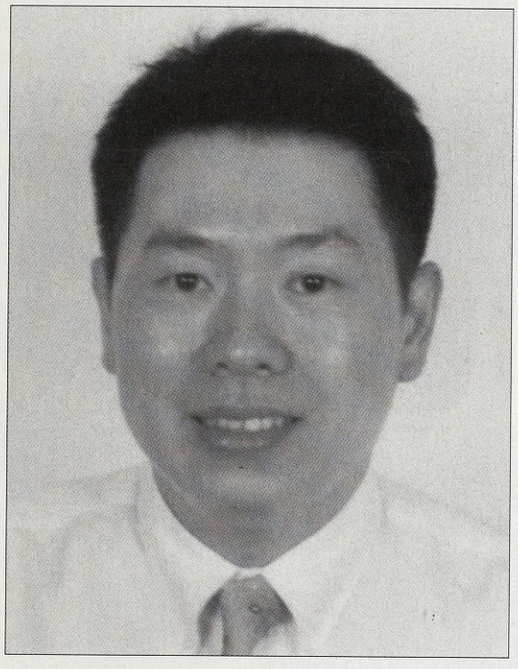
A scientist for the environment, that's what he is. As country director of Conservation International's Philippine Program, Perry S. Ong played a crucial role in the establishment of the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Watersheds and the First Philippine Conservation, Inc.

A product of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, where he obtained a bachelor of science in zoology and master of science in zoology-wildlife studies, Ong also holds a doctorate in behavioral ecology and evolutionary biology from Monash University.

Ong's outstanding performance and dedication to science and technology has earned for him numerous awards, including the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM), the Hiyas Environmentalist of the Year, Outstanding Young Scientist-National Academy of Science and Technology, International Publication Award and Gawad Chancellor. This year, he was among the recipients of the first Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Excellence.

"Ong has published various technical and scientific researches, which have served as valuable teaching and non-teaching references to local and foreign scientists in the country," according to *Tulay*, the fortnightly publication of the Chinese Filipino NGO, Kaisa. "His researches have given Filipinos a better understanding of Philippine wildlife resulting in greater public awareness and appreciation of the importance of this valuable biological resource in the whole ecosystem."

Ong also served as national consultant in zoology for the United Nations Environment Program and Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



Johnlu G. Koa: A *Pain* in the Assets

Filipinos are now exposed to a wide variety of the world's best breads, thanks to the vision of Johnlu G. Koa.

Today, French Baker, the bread company he began in 1989, has been synonymous with freshly-baked, high-quality, but affordable bread and pastries. Those who know him say that hard work and perseverance, not luck, played a big role in Koa's success. Today, French Baker has 23 outlets in Metro Manila, and two in Cebu City.

"His involvement with the University of the Philippines, first as a student taking up business administration, then as a member of the faculty of the College of Business Administration, is a testimonial to his unselfish desire to be of service to the community that nurtured him," according to *Tulay*, the fortnightly newsletter of the Chinese Filipino NGO, Kaisa.

Today, Koa has not left his alma mater, staying on as a member of many university committees that seek to improve the campus.

Born in April 18, 1958 in Manila, the 44-year-old Koa has received numerous awards for his positive contributions to society. In 1998, he was awarded Most Outstanding MBA Alumnus. This year, he was among the first recipients of the annual Dr. Jose Rizal Awards for Excellence given to outstanding Chinese Filipinos. He was cited for his outstanding contribution to Business and Entrepreneurship.

Jose Eduardo Delgado: Logistical Positivist

Jose Eduardo Delgado is the president and chief executive officer of Delbros, Inc. in Manila.

His company, which has 66 offices in the Philippines, specializes in third party logistics and supply-chain management. "We handle logistics and physical distribution of our clients' products, like toys and wines," Delgado explains. "We also have a joint-venture partnership with United Parcel Service (UPS), which has its inter-Asian hub at the Diosdado Macapagal Airport in Clark Special Economics Zone in Angeles, Pampanga."

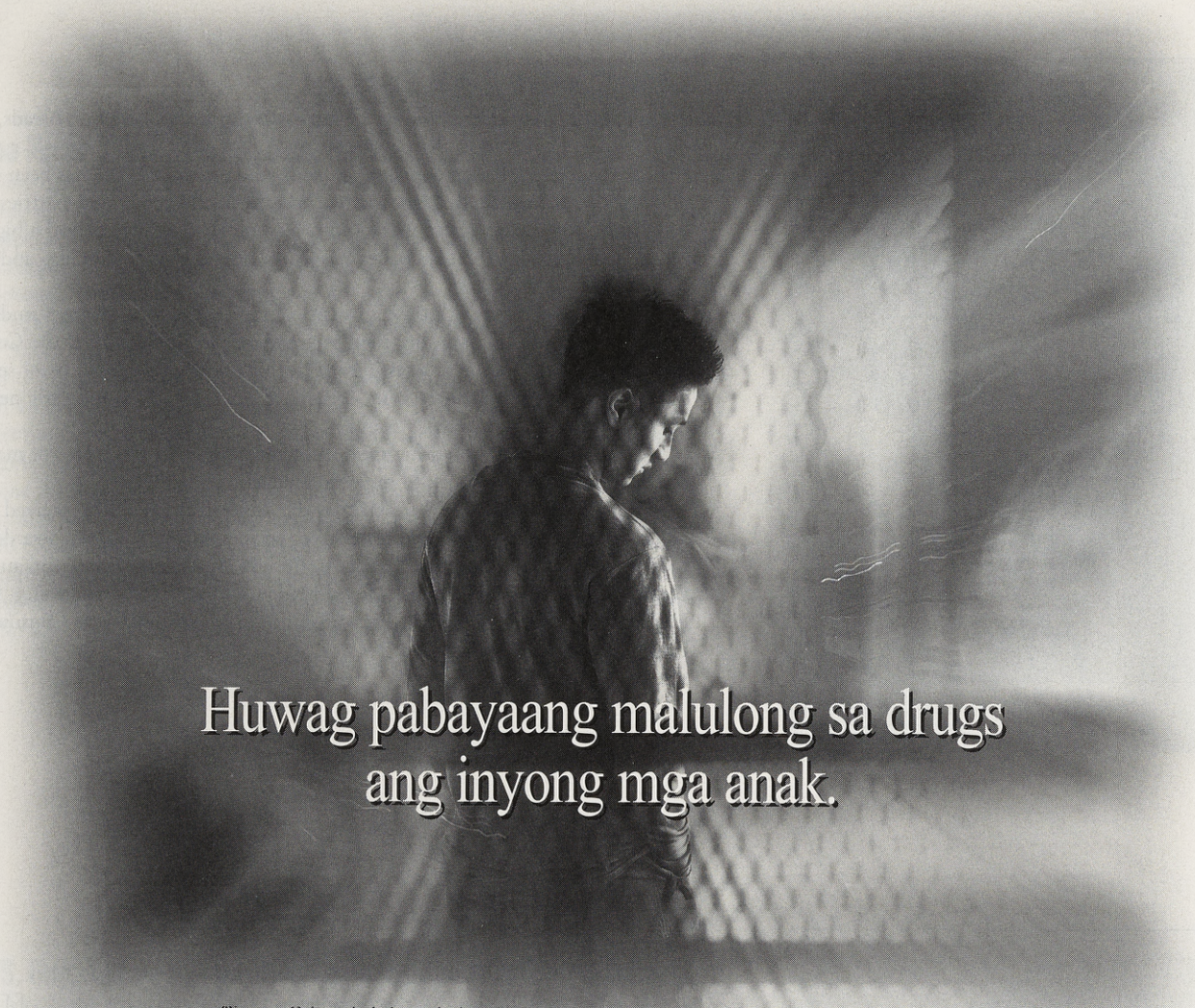
He enjoys designing new ways to find solutions for supply-chain problems of his clients or prospective clients.

Delgado uses clear logical thinking, ability to visualize thoughts and perseverance in implementing dreams.

A grade-school graduate of San Beda College in Manila, he finished high school at Portsmouth Abbey School in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. He is an economics graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

What's the worst thing about his job? "Sometimes, our business is affected by economic situations being experienced by the Philippines or the world."

According to him, logistics and supply-chain management skills developed by experience. To others interested in the field, he says, "Know your geography well and be prepared to work hard."



Huwag pabayaang malulong sa drugs ang inyong mga anak.

"Noong mga 13 ako, nagsimula ako sa paglanghap ng hair spray na madali kong nakukuha sa aming bahay. Gusto ko lang subukan at nasarapan ako."
"Maganda ang grades ko. Laging iniisip ng matatanda na ginagawa namin ito dahil sa influence ng masasamang kaibigan. Pero hindi gano'n. May ibang mga batang nagda-drugs sa school."
"Hindi ko masabi sa aking mga magulang dahil... Hindi sila maniniwala, hindi rin matatanggap na talagang ginagawa ko ito. Ang mahalaga lang sa kanila ay ang aking grades."

Anonymous, 16; nasa REHAB siya ngayon.

Ang mga istoryang tulad nito ay puwedeng mangyari sa inyong mga anak. Alam ba ninyo ang ginagawa ng inyong mga anak sa paaralan? Alam ba ninyo kung ano talaga ang ginagawa ng inyong mga anak kapag kasama ang mga kaibigan? Nagtitiwala ba sa inyo ang inyong mga anak at gustong marinig ang inyong payo o mas gusto nilang malayo sa inyo? Ipakita ang pagmamahal sa inyong anak sa pamamagitan ng pagkuha ng higit pang kaalaman tungkol sa kanilang mundo, at sa problemang kinakaharap nila. Tanggapin at harapin ang katotohanan na ang mga batang Asyano ay nabibiktima rin ng drugs bago silang malulong sa mga ito.

Ang household products ay magagamit na drugs.

May daan-daang household products sa market ngayon na maaaring gamitin ng mga bata to get high. Tulad ng nail polish remover, spray paint, hair spray, model airplane glue, cooking sprays... you name it. Tuwing gagamitin ang mga ito ng mga bata to get high, maaaring magkaroon sila ng malaking pinsala sa utak at nervous system, o maaaring mamatay sila, kahit minsan lamang ginamit. Ayon sa pananaliksik, mga isa sa limang batang Asyano ang umaabuso ng household products to get high. Ang pinaka-mapanganib ay madaling makuha ang substances na ito, maaring kayo ang nagbibigay ng paraan sa kanila to get high kung hindi ninyo alam kung paano nagagamit ang mga ito.

Paano matutulungan ang inyong mga anak na umiwas sa drugs.

Paano matutulungan ang inyong mga anak na umiwas sa drugs? Bago sila kausapin tungkol sa paggamit ng drugs, dapat na may basic knowledge kayo tungkol sa drugs upang malaman ninyo ang sasabihin. Sa pag-uusap ninyo, kailangang prangko kayo at seryoso tungkol sa paggamit ng drugs, ipakita sa kanila na sila at ang kanilang kinabukasan ay mas mahalaga sa inyo kaysa iba pang bagay. Ang kilos sa araw-araw ng inyong mga anak ay makapagsasabi ng marami tungkol sa kanilang mga buhay, kaya mag-obserbang mabuti at dagdagan ang paglahok sa mundo ng inyong mga anak. Para sa iba pang information tungkol sa mga palatandaang dapat bantayan at kung ano ang magagawa ninyo upang umiwas sa drugs ang inyong mga anak, please call 1-800-788-2800 o bisitahin ang aming website www.theantidrug.com.

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Our Town

By Ernie Macatuno

***Unveiling:** Members of the L.A. City Council and the city's Filipino community join Councilman Eric Garcetti (second from left) and State Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (third from left) in unveiling the "Historic Filipinotown" community sign in Los Angeles City Hall on August 2, 2002.*

Filipinos in Los Angeles now have a place they can call their own. The Los Angeles City Council August 2 passed a resolution authored by Councilman Eric Garcetti, designating the city's "historic Filipinotown."

Filipino community leaders who had worked for the establishment of this Filipino town were finally rewarded for their work. A number of them are no longer alive to see the victory. It is a work of love that spanned two decades. Filipinotown covers an area of several blocks, bounded on the north by the 101 Freeway, on the south by Beverly Blvd., on the east by Glendale Blvd. and on the west by Virgil Ave.

Perhaps no one will be gladder than the elderly Filipinos who first settled in this area many years ago. Some of them may still be found on bright and sunny mornings, playing checkers under a palm tree, or seated on benches, talking politics and reminiscing about the old times. These are the *manongs* and the *manangs,* an earlier generation of Filipinos who founded the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA). It is their own place for socializing and spending their days of retirement. Many of them spent years working the farms and orchards of California. For 57 years now, the FACLA compound on Temple St. and Burlington Ave. has been the elders' and the Filipino community's own little corner in the big city. It is at the heart of the brand-new Filipinotown.

Inside the compound is a one-story building with the FACLA office and the social hall rented out for meetings, parties and other affairs. Many community activities are held here. The traditional Philippine Independence Day parade in Los Angeles on June 12 starts here and ends in MacArthur Park. Filipino churches, restaurants, medical and dental clinics are just a walking distance.

Several Attempts

What led Filipinos to establish their own Filipinotown? Filipinos are the largest Asian community in Los Angeles. If the Chinese have their Chinatown, the Japanese their little Tokyo, the Koreans their Koreatown, and even the much smaller Thai community their own Thai Town, so should the Filipinos have their own Philippine Town, *Nayong Filipinas* or Philippine Village as it was variously called before it was officially named Filipinotown.

Several attempts were made to establish the area as Filipinotown. The late Remedios Geaga, a respected community leader, led the first attempt. She wanted the area named

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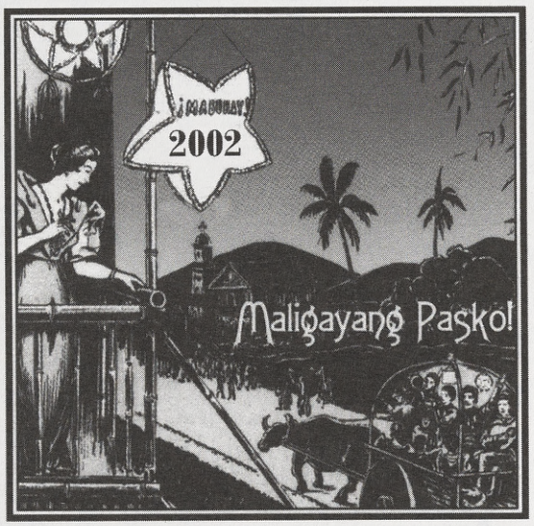

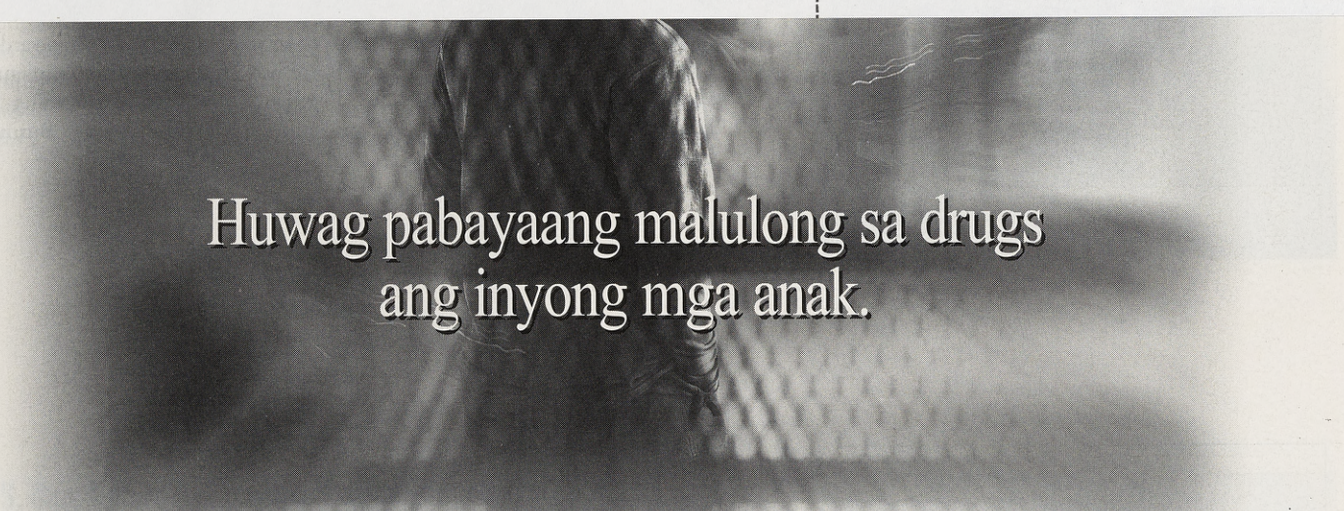

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"Hindi ko masabi sa aking mga magulang dahil... Hindi sila maniniwala, hindi rin matatanggap na talagang ginagawa ko ito. Ang mahalaga lang sa kanila ay ang aking grades."

Anonymous, 16; nasa REHAB siya ngayon.

Ang mga istoryang tulad nito ay puwedeng mangyari sa inyong mga anak. Alam ba ninyo ang ginagawa ng inyong mga anak sa paaralan? Alam ba ninyo kung ano talaga ang ginagawa ng inyong mga anak kapag kasama ang mga kaibigan? Nagtitiwala ba sa inyo ang inyong mga anak at gustong marinig ang inyong payo o mas gusto nilang malayo sa inyo? Ipakita ang pagmamahal sa inyong anak sa pamamagitan ng pagkuha ng higit pang kaalaman tungkol sa kanilang mundo, at sa problemang kinakaharap nila. Tanggapin at harapin ang katotohanan na ang mga batang Asyano ay nabibiktima rin ng drugs bago silang malulong sa mga ito.

Ang household products ay magagamit na drugs.

May daan-daang household products sa market ngayon na maaaring gamitin ng mga bata to get high. Tulad ng nail polish remover, spray paint, hair spray, model airplane glue, cooking sprays... you name it. Tuwing gagamitin ang mga ito ng mga bata to get high, maaaring magkaroon sila ng malaking pinsala sa utak at nervous system, o maaaring mamatay sila, kahit minsan lamang ginamit. Ayon sa pananaliksik, mga isa sa limang batang Asyano ang umaabuso ng household products to get high. Ang pinaka-mapanganib ay madaling makuha ang substances na ito, maaring kayo ang nagbibigay ng paraan sa kanila to get high kung hindi ninyo alam kung paano nagagamit ang mga ito.

Paano matutulungan ang inyong mga anak na umiwas sa drugs.

Paano matutulungan ang inyong mga anak na umiwas sa drugs? Bago sila kausapin tungkol sa paggamit ng drugs, dapat na may basic knowledge kayo tungkol sa drugs upang malaman ninyo ang sasabihin. Sa pag-uusap ninyo, kailangang prangko kayo at seryoso tungkol sa paggamit ng drugs, ipakita sa kanila na sila at ang kanilang kinabukasan ay mas mahalaga sa inyo kaysa iba pang bagay. Ang kilos sa araw-araw ng inyong mga anak ay makapagsasabi ng marami tungkol sa kanilang mga buhay, kaya mag-obserbang mabuti at dagdagan ang paglahok sa mundo ng inyong mga anak. Para sa iba pang information tungkol sa mga palatandaang dapat bantayan at kung ano ang magagawa ninyo upang umiwas sa drugs ang inyong mga anak, please call 1-800-788-2800 o bisitahin ang aming website www.theantidrug.com.

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ELSON TRINIDAD

Our Town

By Ernie Macatuno

Unveiling: ***Members of the L.A. City Council and the city's Filipino community join Councilman Eric Garcetti (second from left) and State Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (third from left) in unveiling the "Historic Filipinotown" community sign in Los Angeles City Hall on August 2, 2002.***

Filipinos in Los Angeles now have a place they can call their own. The Los Angeles City Council August 2 passed a resolution authored by Councilman Eric Garcetti, designating the city's "historic Filipinotown."

Filipino community leaders who had worked for the establishment of this Filipino town were finally rewarded for their work. A number of them are no longer alive to see the victory. It is a work of love that spanned two decades. Filipinotown covers an area of several blocks, bounded on the north by the 101 Freeway, on the south by Beverly Blvd., on the east by Glendale Blvd. and on the west by Virgil Ave.

Perhaps no one will be gladder than the elderly Filipinos who first settled in this area many years ago. Some of them may still be found on bright and sunny mornings, playing checkers under a palm tree, or seated on benches, talking politics and reminiscing about the old times. These are the *manongs* and the *manangs,* an earlier generation of Filipinos who founded the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA). It is their own place for socializing and spending their days of retirement. Many of them spent years working the farms and orchards of California. For 57 years now, the FACLA compound on Temple St. and Burlington Ave. has been the elders' and the Filipino community's own little corner in the big city. It is at the heart of the brand-new Filipinotown.

Inside the compound is a one-story building with the FACLA office and the social hall rented out for meetings, parties and other affairs. Many community activities are held here. The traditional Philippine Independence Day parade in Los Angeles on June 12 starts here and ends in MacArthur Park. Filipino churches, restaurants, medical and dental clinics are just a walking distance.

Several Attempts

What led Filipinos to establish their own Filipinotown? Filipinos are the largest Asian community in Los Angeles. If the Chinese have their Chinatown, the Japanese their little Tokyo, the Koreans their Koreatown, and even the much smaller Thai community their own Thai Town, so should the Filipinos have their own Philippine Town, *Nayong Filipinas* or Philippine Village as it was variously called before it was officially named Filipinotown.

Several attempts were made to establish the area as Filipinotown. The late Remedios Geaga, a respected community leader, led the first attempt. She wanted the area named

ERNIE MACATUNO

The Sign: ***Now displayed at the corner of Temple St. and Union Ave. is the sign of the Historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles.***

Nayong Filipinas. It was during her incumbency as FACLA president that this civic nonprofit organization fully paid for its building and lot. She also founded the very active Filipino American Seniors' Group, Inc. Her fine track record as community leader notwithstanding, *Nayong Filipinas*, never took off for lack of community support.

Another attempt was led by Nena Decena. This also failed, along with the next attempt led by Perry Calica. The movement seemed like it was jinxed, for all these attempts died along with their principal proponents. The fourth attempt, led by Jay Valencia, a labor leader, went much farther than the earlier attempts and finally succeeded.

"It had a better chance of succeeding," said Bobby Reyes, one of the project's proponents, "because a greater number of our countrymen joined in."

New Group

They formed themselves into a public benefit corporation called Philippine Town, Inc. With an initial membership of some 550, the group elected a 15-member board chaired by Valencia.

To accomplish its daunting task, the board undertook an economic and demographic study on Filipinotown's benefit to the City of Los Angeles. The study showed two important points: that Filipinos constitute a great number of the residents in the area, and that a number of businesses there are Filipino-owned.

There was one hitch, though. Latinos now constitute the majority in the area. They understood, though, that the neighborhood had a historical significance to Filipinos, and were supportive. Many Filipino immigrants first settled there upon arrival. Among them was the noted author Carlos Bulosan, who wrote *America Is in the Heart.* He lived there before moving north to Seattle.

The group also encouraged more Filipino entrepreneurs to buy commercial properties or establish businesses in the neighborhood.

Most importantly, the Filipinos had in Councilman Garcetti of Los Angeles' 13th District under which the area falls, an ardent supporter of the project. The resolution he authored made it official. There is now the Filipinotown in Los Angeles, although it has long existed in the hearts and minds of countless Filipinos.

Few Landmarks

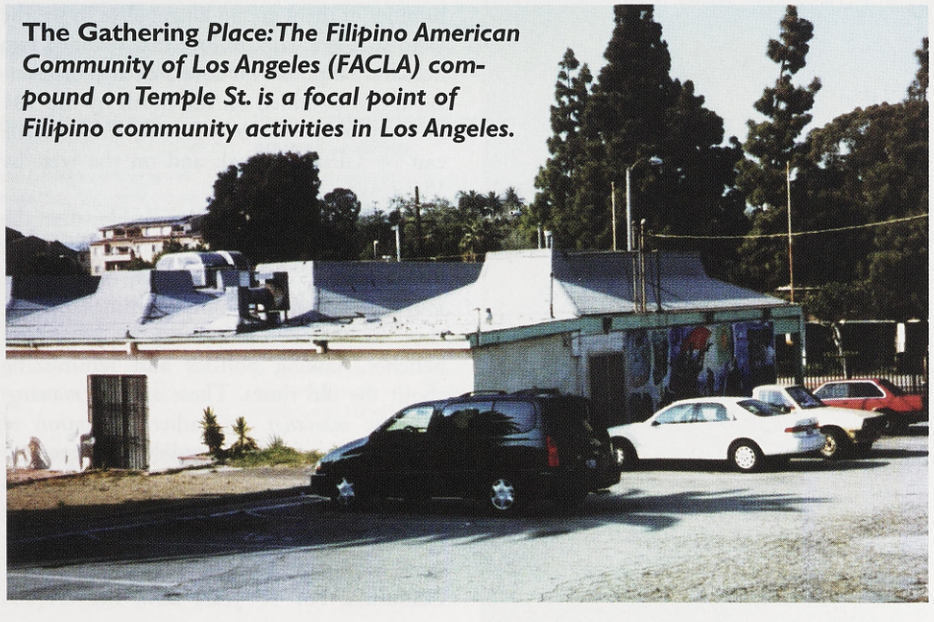
By the looks of it, though, Filipinotown. is as American as the rest of Los Angeles. But there are a few Filipino landmarks.

On Union St. stands the "Iglesia ni Cristo." A stone's throw away, also on Union, is the Filipino Christian Church. St. Columban Church across Belmont High School on Loma St. is considered a Filipino Catholic Church because its parishioners are predominantly Filipino. Tagalog is as widely spoken here as English.

It may appear odd for the Filipinotown to have so few Filipino landmarks and commercial establishments. Many Filipino business ventures, from restaurants to community newspapers and travel agencies, which were put up here, have failed.

An example was the Bayanihan restaurant. In its time it was one of the classiest and most popular Filipino restaurants in Los Angeles. It eventually failed and was sold to a Korean group. Filipino newspapers like the *California Manila Times*, the *Manila Standard* and *TM Herald* made notable appearances here and then were seen no more. One exception is a small restaurant called Little Ongpin on Beverly and Union. It is still there serving the same unvarying good quality food at very reasonable prices. Its branch farther west on Beverly and Reno has failed, though, and was closed down after a few years in operation.

Filipinotown speaks best of the Filipinos' odyssey in America, their successes, failures and frustrations, but most of all their satisfaction and happiness at having made it in this country. One of these days, a sign will come up proclaiming the neighborhood as "historic Filipinotown," a place that Filipinos in Los Angeles can now truly call their own. ■



ERNIE MACATUNO

The Gathering ***Place: The Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) compound on Temple St. is a focal point of Filipino community activities in Los Angeles.***

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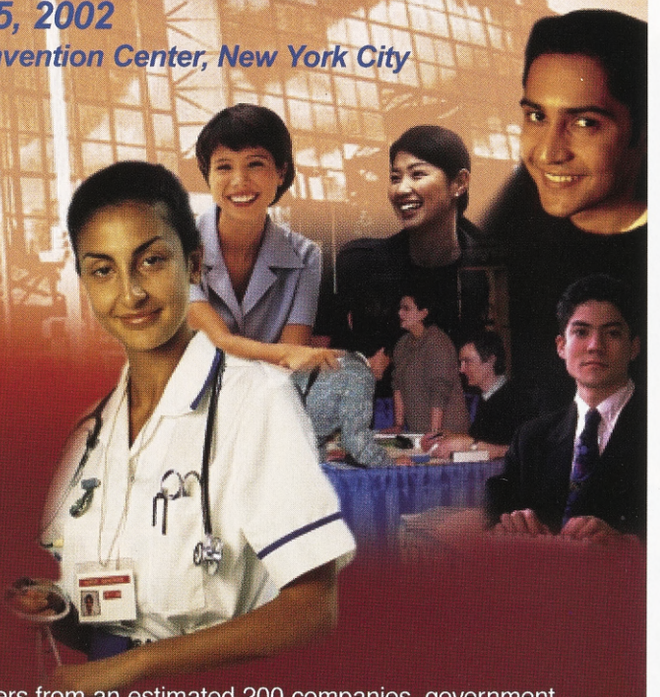

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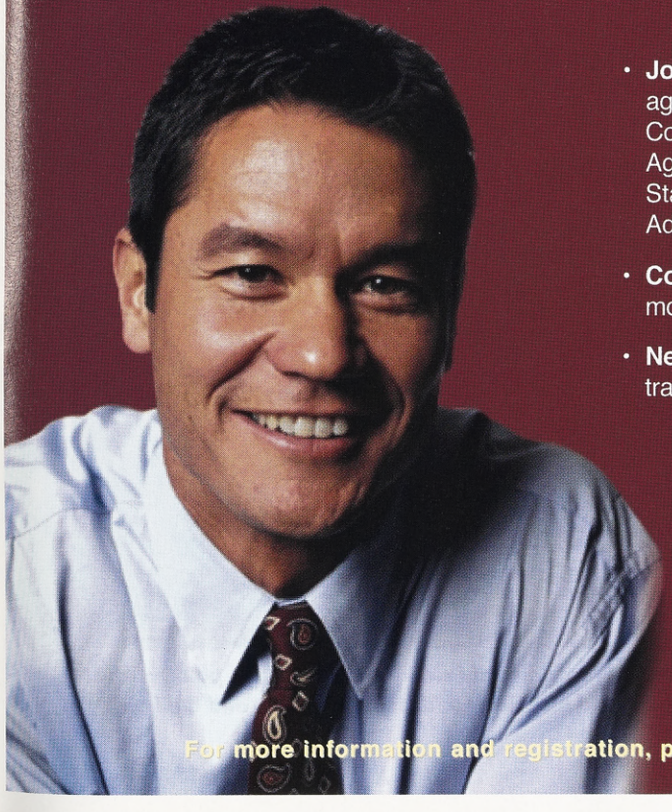

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ERNIE MACATUNO

CORREGIDOR
Rock of Resistance

Story & Photos by Marites N. Sison

It's impossible not to be haunted by Corregidor.

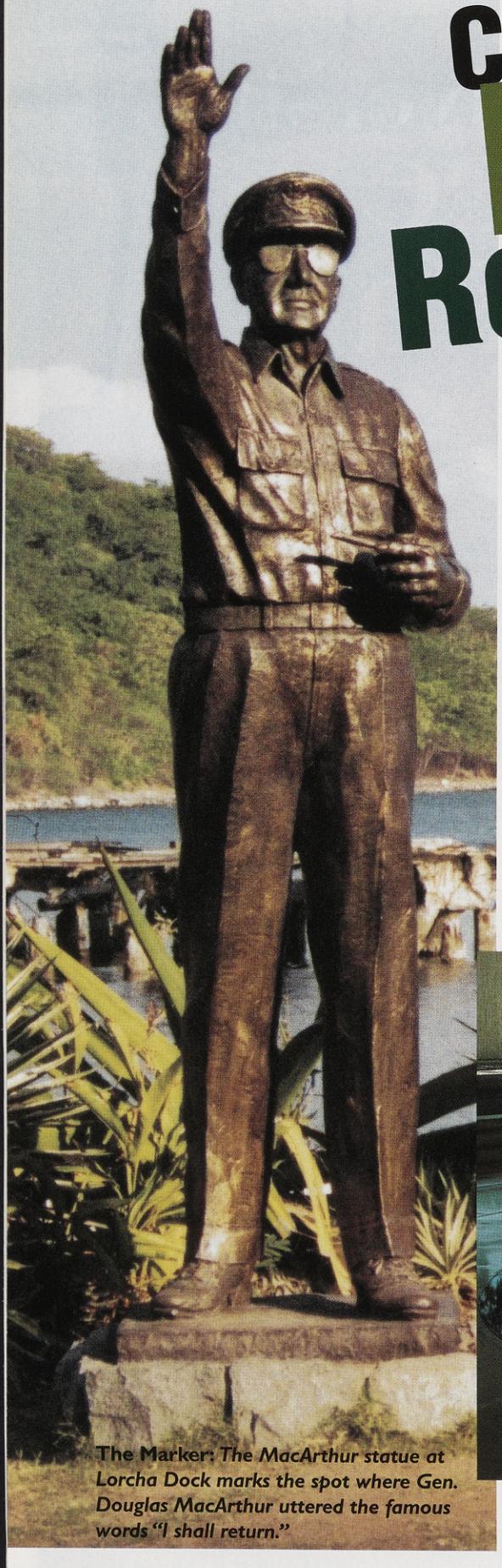
It's a place whose image has been shaped largely by dramatic stories of courage and fear, hope and desperation, love and hatred in a time of war. That such juxtaposition of personal and collective histories were played out amidst craggy mountains, blankets of thick forests, mysterious caves, perilous cliffs and the deepest blue waters adds much to the island's mystique.

As if these weren't enough, long before it acquired a distinctive place in the annals of warfare, Corregidor already breathed a tragic legend. (Its very shape—a tadpole squirming its way into the vast open sea—is also stuff of poetry and imagination.)

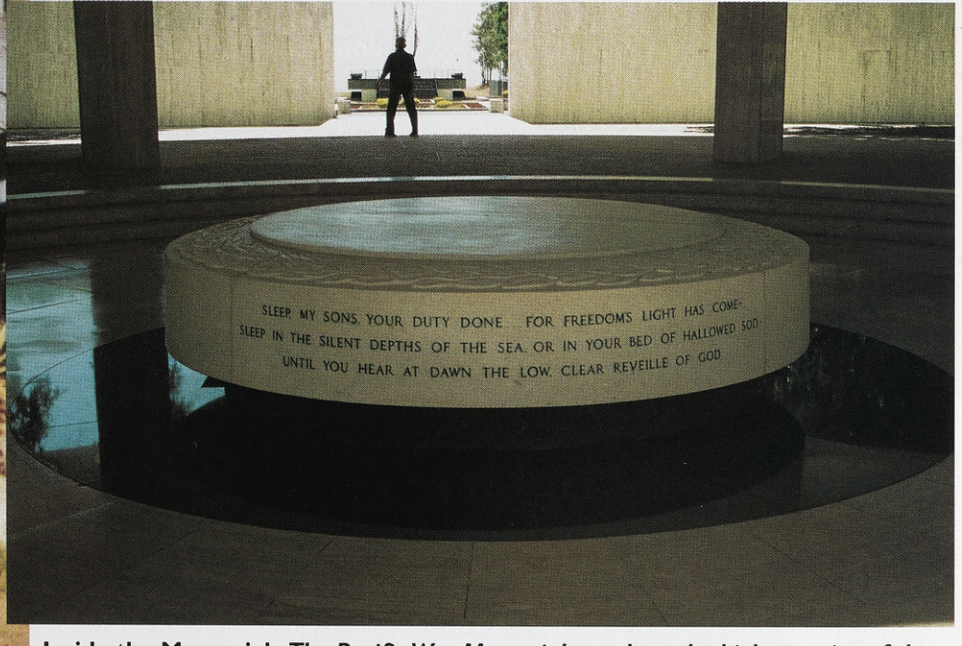
This is the story told and retold by generations upon generations of townsfolk.

A wealthy Spaniard by the name of Velez had a beautiful daughter named Maria, who fell in love with a handsome rich *mestizo* from Manila. The two decided to elope since both their parents disapproved of their relationship. They planned on going to Bataan, across Corregidor island, to board a galleon ship that would take them to faraway Mexico. Alas, Velez decided to thwart their plan, sending off his men to track them down. Maria was riding on a horse, her lover on a carabao, when they were caught. Maria was forcibly returned to Manila, where she later became a nun. Her lover became a monk.

Townsfolk say the islands surrounding Corregidor were subsequently named after them. Caballo island was the horse Maria rode on; Carabao island for her lover's beast of burden. La Monja island, the isolated speck one can view from the island's highest peak, symbolized Maria the nun; El Fraile island was the



The Marker: ***The MacArthur statue at Lorcha Dock marks the spot where Gen. Douglas MacArthur uttered the famous words "I shall return."***



Inside the Memorial: ***The Pacific War Memorial stands at the highest point of the island and is dedicated to Filipino and American soldiers who fought and died on Corregidor.***

At the Ruins: ***The ruins of the Mile Long Barracks can be found at the Topside, the highest point of Corregidor island where all high-caliber seacoast artillery were mounted.***

lover who became a monk. The mountains of Bataan became Mariveles.

Historians, on the other hand, believe that the name Corregidor originated from the Spanish *corregir* (to correct or to check) since the island was a checkpoint for vessels entering Manila Bay during the Spanish and American occupations. In it, the Spaniards built a dockyard, a hospital, a signal outpost to warn of approaching invaders, and a lighthouse. A bigger one in 1897 replaced the lighthouse originally built in 1836. It was destroyed in World War II and has since been replaced by a new one, which offers a panoramic view of Manila Bay and the South China Sea.

Still, long before the island even had an official name seafarers and pirates were said to have taken shelter in its coves during storms. Could the Chinese rebel (the Spaniards would say pirate) Limahong have been one of them?

Today, the "Rock Island" (as Corregidor is called because of its huge limestone formations) remains one of the Philippines' top tourist attractions in Luzon.

For many years it was visited mainly by reminiscing war veterans from the United States, Japan and South Korea, as well as *balikbayans* eager to have a slice of Philippine-American history.

These days more local tourists are flocking, enticed by word-of-mouth testimonies that aside from its sheer historical value, traveling to Corregidor is like "going abroad." Unlike much of the country, here's a place where time has been allowed to stay at a standstill. Save for small touches of beautification (simple, not lavish and garish gardens), here relics of the past have been left to age grandly as they should. Corregidor is a woman in her fifties, radiating in beauty shaped by layers upon layers of character-building experience.

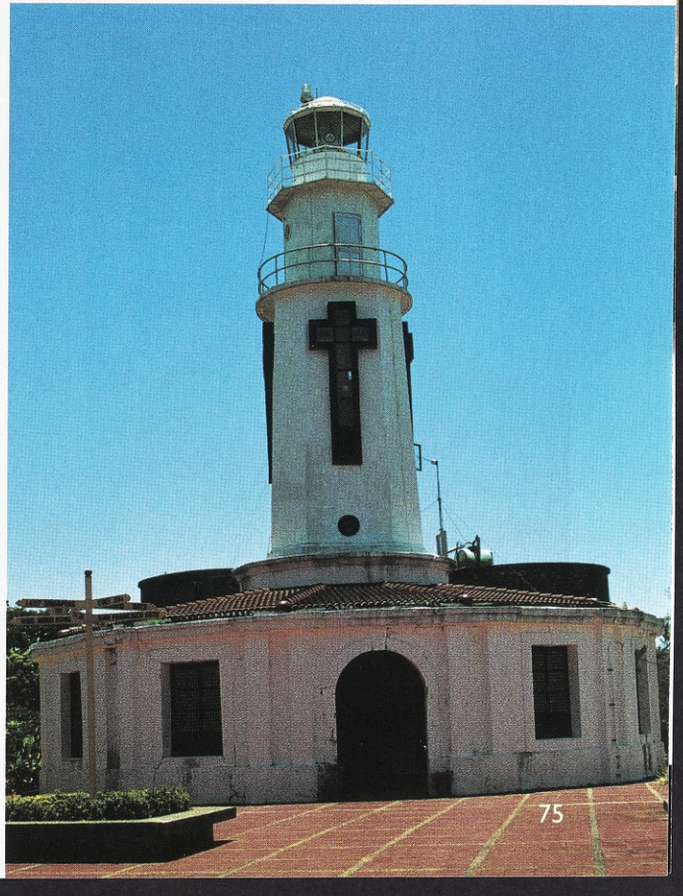
Getting there is a pleasant 52-minute ride aboard an air-conditioned ferryboat from Manila Bay. Friendly tour guides await visitors at the wharf and whisk them off in colorful buses built for nostalgic effect like the tranvia—electric-powered trains that used to run on the island and on the streets of the Manila at the turn of the 20th century. (Those who don't intend to stay on the island for a day or two are advised to join the bus tour since there are many points of interest that may be missed when exploring on one's own.)

Being in Corregidor is like stepping into a grand, empty theater inhabited by ghosts of the past. You are free to create your own play or movie on your mind here. The guides will help you recreate the scenes. "That's the famous Lorcha Dock," they will say, "where General Douglas MacArthur departed for Darwin, Australia, and uttered the words, 'I Shall Return.'" There now stands a larger-than-life bronze statue of MacArthur.

There are mute reminders of the violence of war—the huge craters where powerful bombs fell, spent bombshells now used for decorative effect, mortars that once pounded relentlessly.

The guides are quite well-informed. Our only misgiving is that save for passages about Manuel Quezon's car and his family's last days at the Malinta Tunnel, much of Corregidor's proud history has been centered on the Americans, the American generals for that matter. "The island was the last bastion of the Allied Forces in the Pacific during World War II.... During the Spanish-American War, Dewey's fleet wiped out Spanish Admiral Montejo's fleet at Manila Bay. U.S. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright surrendered Corregidor on May 6, 1942...."

It is understandable why Americans should take center stage in Corregidor—aside from having funded much of its restoration and preservation, they developed the island, turning it into a fortress, with a 835-feet long and 24-feet wide bomb-proof tunnel after Spain sold the Philippines for a few millions



Checkpoint: ***Historians believe the name Corregidor came from the Spanish word corregir which means to correct or check. The island was a checkpoint during the Spanish occupation.***

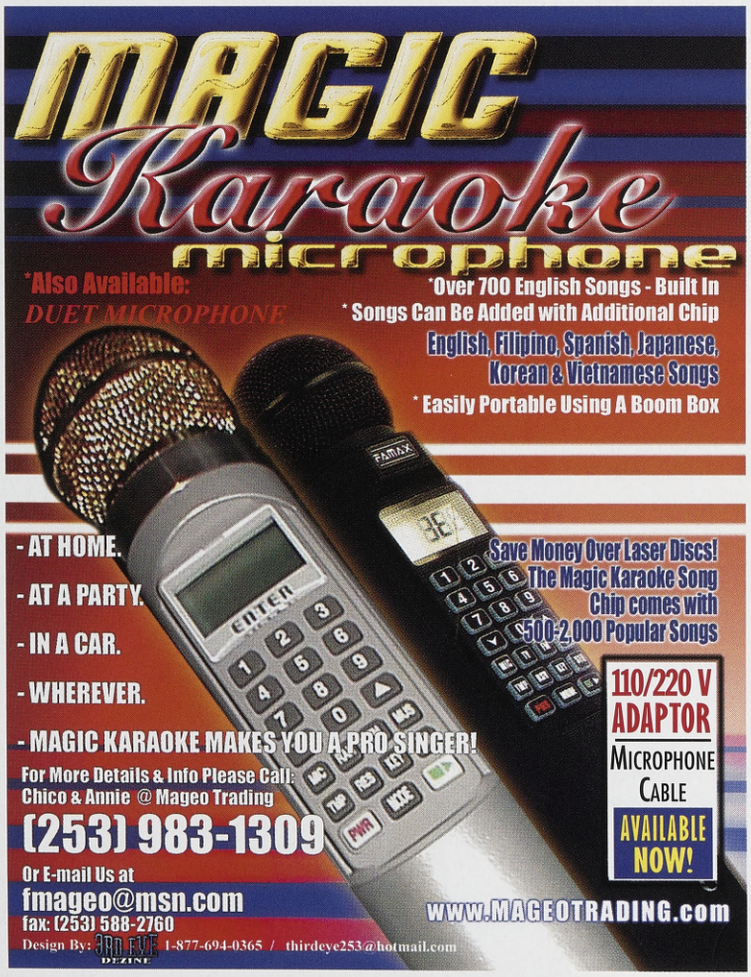
under the Treaty of Paris. Still, one would hope that history be told in its complex totality. There are clearly some attempts to be more forgiving of the Japanese, who would otherwise cringe during the entire tour devoted to bashing them. Their loyalty to their flag, no matter how blind, is commemorated in the Garden of Peace. We hear about how many of them chose suicide over surrender, with some jumping off ravines now referred to as "suicide cliffs." What must have gone on in their minds as they jumped off or blew themselves up, we wonder?

One is regaled by some trivia offered by the guides. The last movie shown at Cine Corregidor was "Gone With The Wind." Today, only the bombed-out structure remains of the cinema, which we are told, had once been grander than those in once-cosmopolitan Manila.

Yet, sorely lacking are bits and pieces of history about the Filipinos who fought alongside the Americans. Who were these men and what did they do? Who exactly were the men who built the complex tunnel of Malinta, so-called because it had been teeming with *linta* (leeches) when first cleared? We are told that some locals, residents of Barangay San Jose, lived on the island. Where are they and their descendants now? What was their memory of the island? Of life back then? How did they regard the Americans? Or the Japanese?

These blanks notwithstanding, Corregidor as it is presented today is riveting. The only downside to visiting Corregidor is the food. There are one or two restaurants outside the hotel, both of which serve ordinary, unimaginative fare. Hotel food is expensive and yes, boringly ordinary. A pity really, considering the hotel is wrapped around exquisite views of the island and considering the richness of the island's history. ■

Marites N. Sison is Filipinas' *editorial coordinator in the Philippines.*



Some Points of Interest

Topside

The highest point of the island where all high-caliber seacoast artillery were mounted. It was the site of the Harbor Defense Headquarters, Mile Long Barracks, Senior Officers Quarters, Parade Ground, Golf Course, old Spanish Lighthouse and Hospital.

Battery Way

It was the last "concrete artillery" to cease firing before the surrender of the island to the Japanese. It was armed with four 12-inch mortars capable of firing up to 14,610 yards in any direction at the rate of one round per minute per mortar. Some of the old mortars are still there.

Battery Hearn

Captured nearly intact by the Japanese, it has a 12-inch seacoast gun with a maximum range of 29,500 yards capable of firing in all directions.

Pacific War Memorial

Built by the U.S. government at a cost of P1.23 million ($23,500), it stands at the highest point of the island and is dedicated to Filipino and American soldiers who fought and died on Corregidor. A museum of war artifacts, the ruins of Cine Corregidor and the remains of the Bachelor Officers' Quarters are beside it.

Malinta Tunnel

Located beneath the impregnable Malinta Hills, it served as the seat of the Philippine Government under President Manuel L. Quezon. Constructed from 1922 to 1932, it was originally an arsenal and underground hospital. Today a light and sound show conceptualized by the late Filipino film director Lamberto Avellana reenacts the dramatic events of World War II. Visitors who stay overnight can request for a personal tour of the other laterals of the tunnel, including the secret passages used by Quezon and other leaders.

Japanese Garden of Peace

A good place to cool one's heels, it includes a koi pond. It also offers a breathtaking view of the bay.

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Overnight package costs P1,690 ($32.29) (includes boat transfers, guided tour, plated lunch and hotel accommodations); day tour is P650 ($12.42) (includes boat transfers and guided tour).

Those who plan to stay overnight or beyond can stay at the Corregidor Hotel or the cottage beach resort. You can also camp out for a minimal fee. Boats can also be hired for exploring neighboring islands. Personal tours and activities (trekking, exploring, "war" games) can be arranged. –MNS

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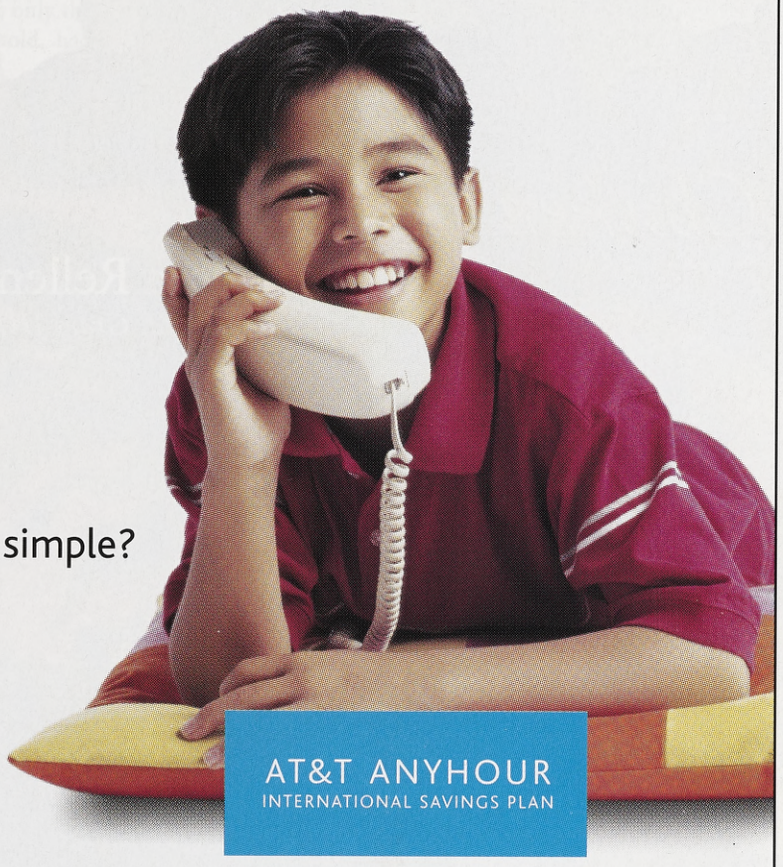

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